

Israelis support land for peace

TEL AVIV (AP) — Thirty-eight per cent of Israelis support exchanging occupied territory for peace, while 25 per cent favour limited self-rule for Palestinians and 30 per cent want annexation, according to a public opinion poll published Friday. The poll, published in the daily Maariv newspaper, showed a significant drop in the number of Israelis advocating annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the start of the 14-month Palestinian uprising. In May 1987, before the start of the Palestinian rebellion, 45 per cent of the Israelis questioned favoured some form of annexation. Support for annexation declined to 42 per cent in May 1988 and dropped to 30 per cent in early 1989. The poll also showed a significant increase in the number of Israelis favouring "autonomy" for Palestinians, with eight per cent favouring such an arrangement in May 1987, 16 per cent in 1988 and 25 per cent in 1989. The number of Israelis advocating annexation after removing all Arab residents from the occupied territories dropped from 18 per cent in 1987 to 17 per cent in 1989, while those supporting annexation without citizenship for Palestinians was down from 19 per cent in 1987 to nine per cent in 1989, the poll said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Geagea ready to make 'concessions'

BEIRUT (R) — Rightist militia chief Samir Geagea said Friday he would withdraw his men from the streets of east Beirut to end bitter battles with the army in Lebanon's Christian enclave. "I am ready to pay any price to avoid a military showdown in the Christian areas," he said after four hours of talks with Christian members of parliament, clerics and officials. The Maronite Christian church called the meeting to try to end fighting between Geagea's Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen and mainly-Christian Regular soldiers in east Beirut and areas to the north and northeast. Three days of street fighting and artillery bombardments tapered off into sporadic exchanges of machinegun fire Friday after a truce also mediated by the church. An army lieutenant killed Friday was the 57th person to die in the battles, while 130 people have been wounded. Army commander General Michel Aoun, who did not attend the meeting, demands the withdrawal of LF militiamen from Beirut and an end to the collection of taxes by the militia. (see story below) A statement said the meeting set up a committee of deputies to try to heal political rifts.

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Arab World hails ACC

By P.V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches



North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, His Majesty King Hussein, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak proclaim the birth of the Arab Cooperation Council in Baghdad Thursday (Petra photo)

AMMAN — The proclamation in Baghdad Thursday of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) drew wide welcome in the Arab World Friday, with governments, newspapers and pan-Arab organisations describing the four-member sub-regional alliance as a landmark step towards wider Arab economic integration.

Jordanians from all walks of life joined the crescendo of congratulations, pouring into the capitals of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen — the founding members of the ACC — whose leaders met in the Iraqi capital Thursday in a mini-summit to announce the founding of

the mainly economic alliance. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted cables sent by representatives of numerous private and public organisations to the King as describing the birth of the alliance as a historic event in the course of his endeavours to achieve pan-Arab unity.

Among those sending the cables were Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, who also sent similar cables to the leaders of the three other states in the alliance. "The Jordanian people are overwhelmed with pride and joy over the achievement, which is in harmony with and true commitment to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt," the cable said.

Similar sentiments were voiced by Council of Arab Economic Unity Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim. The ACC is a major achievement, paving the way for a greater strength for the Arab Nation at large, Ibrahim was quoted as saying by Petra.

The heads of Jordanian professional and trade unions also voiced pride in the alliance and noted

(Continued on page 2)

Assad, Sheikh Jaber congratulate Al Hussein

AMMAN (J.T.) — The leaders of Syria and Kuwait Friday congratulated His Majesty King Hussein on the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which groups Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King contacted Syrian President Hafez Al Assad over the phone and reviewed with him the latest developments in the Arab region, the current situation and the founding of the ACC in Baghdad Thursday.

Assad congratulated the King over the founding of the ACC and said the council had his blessings, Petra said. The Syrian leader also voiced hope that the council would benefit the entire Arab Nation and contribute to the cause of Arab unity, the agency said.

The Kuwaiti congratulations to the King came in a cable sent by the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who wished the best for the council, which, he said, "is a step towards Arab integration and solidarity and unifying Arab efforts and positions in the service of the entire Arab Nation." Petra said.

Sheikh Jaber wished the four leaders of the ACC every success and inspiration to serve their own countries and fulfil their aspirations, Petra added.

Arab Maghreb Union founded in Marrakesh

MARRAKESH, Morocco (R) — Leaders of five Maghreb states proclaimed the Arab Maghreb Union Friday and signed its founding treaty setting up a new economic bloc.

The union, the second regional Arab grouping formed in two days, brings together the 62 million people of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia and extends 4,500 kilometres from the Atlantic to the East Mediterranean.

Modelled on the European Community (EC), the Maghreb's main trading partner, it is intended to boost trade and economic cooperation by allowing freedom of movement across frontiers.

Maghreb leaders also hope it will enable them to deal more effectively with the EC when the Europeans create a single market in 1992 on the other side of the Mediterranean.

The founding treaty, signed by the five heads of state in Marrakesh's city hall at the end of a two-day summit, creates:

— A policy-making council of heads of state to meet every six months under an annually rotating chairman.

— A council of foreign ministers to prepare the ground for the summit.

— A Maghreb commission consisting of a senior member of each government overseeing annual integration.

— A secretariat to deal with day-to-day administrative problems.

— A 50-member consultative Maghreb chamber consisting of 10 members of each country's national parliament or assembly.

— A 10-member court with two judges from each state to settle disputes.

The treaty, in an apparent gesture to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi who wanted closer political integration, also says the Arab Maghreb Union will be open to other African and Arab states.

Qadhafi had proposed extending the confederation to include Chad, Mali, Niger and Sudan and seemed reluctant to come to Morocco after the other states reacted unenthusiastically to his suggestion.

Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, who played a key role in bringing former foes in the region together, flew unexpectedly to

Libya Monday and spent two days persuading Qadhafi to attend.

Morocco's King Hassan gave Qadhafi the honour of addressing the opening session and in his speech the Libyan leader made clear he regarded the union as a stepping to wider Arab unity.

The birth of the Arab Maghreb Union followed the creation in Baghdad Thursday of a similar regional union grouping Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen.

In his inaugural speech, Qadhafi announced that a second summit conference of the union would take place in Libya's capital, Tripoli, Sept. 1, the 20th anniversary of the coup that brought Qadhafi to power.

He formally invited the other four leaders to take part. But, Qadhafi repeated the earlier position that had threatened to hold up the summit.

"This union is only the first stage toward a union of all Arab countries," he said. "We must remain open at some time in the future to the other African countries, particularly Sudan, Chad, Mali and Niger."

Qadhafi also mentioned Syria as a possible union member.



Mikhail Gorbachev

Gorbachev seeks help in Afghan settlement

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has sent a personal appeal to U.S. President George Bush for cooperation in achieving a settlement to the Afghan conflict, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh said Friday.

He told a news conference the Soviet Union had also appealed to a number of Western governments and regional organisations, including the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Arab League, for help in ending bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Bessmertnykh said some Soviet military advisors had remained in Afghanistan after the final pull out of Soviet troops Wednesday, but stressed that their number was "very small."

"Yesterday, the Soviet government appealed to a number of other governments and organisations which could play a positive role in bringing about a settlement to Afghanistan," he said.

He identified the governments as France, Britain, West Germany, Italy, Iran, Pakistan and China.

The organisations contacted were the United Nations, through its Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, the OIC, the Organisation of African Unity, the Arab League and the European Community.

In New Delhi, the chief Soviet negotiator on Afghanistan accused the United States Friday of trying to plunge Afghanistan into a bloodbath following the Soviet withdrawal by continuing to aid rebels.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov criticised the decision by U.S. President George Bush to keep supplying the insurgents trying to overthrow the Afghan government.

Shevardnadze in Damascus with new Soviet proposal for peace

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in the Syrian capital Friday at the start of a 10-day Middle East tour expected to focus on efforts for peace in the region.

After two days of talks with Syrian leaders including President Hafez Al Assad, Shevardnadze is scheduled to visit Cairo, Amman, Baghdad and Tehran.

He is due back in Moscow Feb. 27.

Shevardnadze said on arrival in Damascus that he had brought specific proposals on bringing peace to the region.

"These proposals are here in my suitcase. I will not reveal them now," he told reporters at Damascus airport.

"It is important to listen to the views of the parties and benefit from all available chances (for peace), which are now increasing."

Shevardnadze said in an interview with the official news agency TASS before leaving that the time had come for more Soviet action in finding a Middle East settlement.

"The Soviet Union, inseparably connected with that region geographically, historically and politically, should and can make its contribution to settling drawn-out and extremely painful conflicts and to establishing a lasting peace," he said.

Shevardnadze said he did not expect any dramatic results from his 10-day tour.

"Of course, the nature of these conflicts is such that no dramatic effect can be expected in the course of the 10-day visit," he said.

TASS said the foreign minister aimed to help the search for a constructive peace settlement during his trip.

"We believe an auspicious moment has come to intensify efforts to create conditions for the holding of a Middle East peace conference," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told TASS.

"It would be unpardonable to pass it up."

"The Soviet Union proceeds from the premise that our country, which is connected with the region geographically, historically and politically, must contribute

to the settlement of protracted and extremely painful conflicts."

TASS said the Soviet Union was particularly worried about the level of armaments in the Middle East.

About \$93 billion worth of arms were delivered to the countries in the past five years, equivalent to almost two-thirds of world arms spending, it said.

"The strength of the armed forces in the Near and Middle East (including Israel and the Maghreb countries) is 4.5 million," TASS said. "Five thousand tanks are concentrated in the region."

"Chemical and bacteriological weapons have emerged and recently some countries have acquired medium-range missiles."

U.N. panel condemns Israeli practices 2 more killed, 12 injured in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian boy in the occupied West Bank town of Nablus Friday during protests sparked by the overnight death of a Palestinian wounded in an earlier clash, hospital officials said.

Witnesses said soldiers opened fire when demonstrators threw stones at them and also burned tyres in various parts of the town.

Hospital officials identified the boy as Imad Hassan Al Turk, 18, from the nearby village of Kufr Dik. At least 12 Palestinians were wounded, four seriously, by army gunfire in Nablus.

Those in serious condition included an 11-year-old girl shot in the head with a plastic bullet in the 'Ain Beit Alma refugee camp.

Hospital workers said soldiers entered the emergency room at Irtihad hospital in Nablus to search for demonstrators wounded in the clashes.

Nablus closed down on Friday

in an impromptu general strike after a local boy, shot by troops during a clash Thursday, died of chest wounds.

At least 389 Palestinians have been killed in the 14-months Palestinian uprising.

A military court in Ramallah jailed six Palestinians for six months each for stone-throwing and taking part in anti-Israeli demonstrations. A seventh Palestinian was jailed for 18 months for trying to steal a soldier's gun.

In Geneva, the U.N. Human Rights Commission condemned Israel Friday for the savage treatment, torture and killing of people in the occupied territories.

Only the United States, Canada and six European countries voted against the resolution which also called for an end to Israel's occupation of Palestine which "constitutes a gross violation of human rights."

Diplomats said Arab delega-

tions had toned down three resolutions condemning Israel to garner wide support but the United States and its allies said they still felt the language was too emotive and unbalanced.

The two other resolutions called on Israel to withdraw from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights and condemned Israel for denying Palestinians the privileges of an occupied people guaranteed under the 1949 Geneva conventions.

Among other things, the commission accused Israel of:

— Perpetrating crippling youths by breaking their bones;

— Savagely beating and mistreating women, causing abortions;

— Torturing detainees;

— Throwing gas bombs into houses, mosques and hospitals, causing death by suffocation;

— Imposing curfews and military sieges intended to destroy towns and villages.

Spokesman for LF commander Samir Geagea has said the militia would never agree to stop the tax-collectors which form its basic income or withdraw from east Beirut.

Aoun demanded the LF withdraw from east Beirut and also accused them of starting this week's fighting that included a massive attack on his home in the wealthy east Beirut suburb of Rabbieh.

He said that a group of LF "special forces" in 10 armoured personnel carriers attacked the apartment building Wednesday, adding that five were destroyed and the remainder captured.

The Lebanese Forces, like other militias, has collected taxes and helped provide education and welfare services, during almost 14 years of civil war.

Aoun said he accepted the ceasefire mediated by Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir so that efforts could be made to "resolve the problem peacefully."

"Otherwise, it will be total destruction. This time it will be apocalyptic," he said, speaking at his heavily-guarded headquarters in the Yaze suburb, east of Beirut.

Army and Lebanese Forces representatives were due to meet later in the day at Sfeir's seat in

Aoun threatens to wipe out 'Lebanese Forces'

BEIRUT (AP) — Army commander General Michel Aoun threatened Friday to unleash an "apocalypse" to wipe out the "Lebanese Forces" militia if it refuses to accept his authority.

Aoun, who also heads the military cabinet in Lebanon's dual government, told a news conference: "We are responsible for the state, and they want a mini-state... those who do not abide by the law, I'll crush their heads."

Aoun's tough stance sharpened fears that more fighting could erupt between his 20,000 troops and the 6,000-strong Lebanese Forces (LF) militia.

A ceasefire was agreed

Wednesday after fierce clashes earlier in the week around east Beirut left 69 people dead and 197 wounded, according to police count.

Aoun said he accepted the ceasefire mediated by Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir so that efforts could be made to "resolve the problem peacefully."

"Otherwise, it will be total destruction. This time it will be apocalyptic," he said, speaking at his heavily-guarded headquarters in the Yaze suburb, east of Beirut.

Army and Lebanese Forces representatives were due to meet later in the day at Sfeir's seat in

the mountain resort of Bkirki for talks on a political settlement to their power struggle for control of the Christian enclave.

Aoun said the Lebanese Forces should pay for property damage caused by the fighting, estimated at several hundred million dollars, out of illegal taxes it levies in its areas of influence.

"Lebanese citizens should only pay taxes to the state. I hereby declare that the army has banned illegal taxation in areas under its control," he said.

The Lebanese Forces, like other militias, has collected taxes and helped provide education and welfare services, during almost 14 years of civil war.

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Afghan Shura starts real work days late

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Four days after it was due to end, a dispute-ridden Afghan rebel council Friday started to work out an interim government it hopes will take power in Kabul following the departure of Soviet troops.

But delegates to the council, or Shura, which opened a week ago and was meant to last no more than three days, said many hurdles remained in the way of unity. The way was cleared for work on the government, which many rebels and their Western backers hope will end the bloody Afghan war quickly, when a leading moderate guerrilla group ended a boycott. Delegates said the Pakistan-based Afghan National Liberation Front (ANLF) ended its boycott over how many Shura seats should be given to eight Tehran-based groups because they feared fundamentalists might win approval for their proposed interim government leader.

The end of the boycott appeared to leave the Iran-based groups out in the cold. They have said they would not recognise any Shura decision taken in their absence, an attitude that would undermine the authority of any interim government approved. "But obviously the fundamentalists were not prepared to give way and the ANLF risked being outflanked if they did not go back," a Western diplomat said. An interim government of well-known Afghan personalities could undermine the Soviet-backed Kabul government that has vowed to fight on despite the departure of Soviet troops Wednesday after nine unsuccessful years of war.

Diplomats said it would provide an alternative to which Kabul's forces could desert and a credible negotiating group in any talks Moscow might want to set up. The Shura's ability to achieve that kind of interim government was still far from clear. Delegates said the fundamentalists so far had only presented the name of Ahmad Shah, a U.S.-educated engineer, for approval as head of the interim government. "Our rules say the whole government should be presented, not just the name of the head of government," said a moderate delegate. The bitter dispute over the Shura have upset guerrilla commanders.



Hundreds of Afghan fighters, exiles and scholars attend the Shura meeting near Islamabad, Pakistan

Israelis, Palestinians in expanded dialogue

Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israeli officials, parliament members and academics are engaged in an expanding dialogue with Palestinians that has triggered a burgeoning controversy about the path to peace.

The increasing contacts, conducted here and abroad, may break down a widespread psychological taboo in Israel about dealing with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

But the talks are opposed by right-wing followers of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and triggered fresh tensions this week within the coalition government of his Likud bloc and the Labour Party. Two widely publicised encounters this week in a Van-Can-run hotel in Jerusalem involved three prominent Palestinians and leading Labour Party members close to Finance Minister Shimon Peres.

Peres has endorsed the dialogue and hinted he may join in the informal discussions later despite opposition from within his party. However, the growing controversy prompted two reserve army generals, Alon Yaron and Shimon Gazi, to back out of a third meeting with centrist politicians Thursday night.

Labour parliament member Avraham Burg, who attended one meeting, said an aim of the dialogue was to "create an awareness" that Israel could not ignore the Palestinians.

"We both suffered from an on-going process of demonisation of the enemy. I want the Israelis to realise that something is going on, and... that we have no excuse any more to say there is nobody to talk to," said Burg.

Faisal Husseini, a Palestinian aligned with the PLO who attended the meeting, said he has begun a campaign to explain the PLO's proposals, accepting invitations to address Israeli audiences. "It is time to go and talk to these people, and let them see the monster face to face, and see he is not a monster," Husseini said, adding he wanted to reach mainstream Israelis and not just leftists.

"Palestinians are accepting the idea of meeting with Israelis more close to the centre," added Husseini, 48. However, right-wing members of parliament sharply attacked the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, with Teviya's Eliezer Waldman crying left-wing parliament members be put on trial for "working with the enemies of Israel."

Yossi Ahimeir, spokesman for Shamir, said the dialogue lacked political significance. "We don't consider these meetings as important. On the contrary, it will not come to anything. These people are not in charge of making policy for the state," he said.

Ahimeir contended that such talks could heat up the political atmosphere, leading to a resurgence of violent protests in the occupied territories.

Some contacts with local PLO supporters have been carried out by defence ministry officials and senior army officers as part of an initiative by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a Labour Party hawk. Speaking on Israel's Arabic television Thursday, Rabin raised the possibility of negotiating for an undefined "political entity," with elected Palestinians from the occupied territories. But he continued to refuse direct talks with the PLO.

Rabin promised "really free elections... to choose political representation to conduct negotiations with us on a political process that would not immediately reach a permanent solution. We can't resolve that problem at once."

Many Palestinians are deeply suspicious, however, saying they fear Israel is trying to create an unacceptable local alternative to the PLO leadership. Rabin's initiative appears to have given birth to the unofficial talks between Labour doves and Husseini, who met with defence ministry official Shmuel Goren while Husseini was still in jail last month.

With a frequency not seen before, liberal members of parliament and other Israelis opposed to the government policy of refusing to talk with the PLO have also flown to Europe to participate in academic forums, debates and conferences with PLO officials. Such academic forums skirt an Israeli law that makes it a criminal offence punishable by up to three years in jail to contact the PLO. At least four more similar conferences are scheduled in the coming weeks.

"It was very encouraging. They (PLO officials) have come to the conclusion they must negotiate, and must limit their demands. They've come a long way," said Galia Golan, a Hebrew University professor who attended a conference with PLO officials in the Hague last week. They (PLO officials) have come to the conclusion they must negotiate, and must limit their demands. They've come a long way," said Galia Golan, a Hebrew University professor who attended a conference with PLO officials in the Hague last week.

Waldegrave urges PLO not to stage attacks on Israeli targets

BAHRAIN (R) — A British minister urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Thursday to refrain from attacking military targets in Israel, saying this would hurt the peace process.

"We urge the PLO not to get involved with what would be militarily pointless and cause a sterile debate over what constitutes a military target and what does not," Junior Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave told a news conference.

"It would dispel some of the goodwill felt toward the PLO in Britain and other countries... what is needed is political will on both sides to carry forward the peace process."

Waldegrave said he viewed the next few months as important for Middle East peace efforts, saying a PLO statement last December renouncing terrorism and accepting Israel's right to exist had provided an opportunity for action.

"We have been saying to Israel that this does provide an opportunity and that it is in the long-term interests of Israel to formulate a positive response," he said. Waldegrave said Britain could play a crucial role in peace negotiations because of its good relationship with both sides of the conflict and with the United States.

"In terms of being a potential clearer of misunderstandings, which is a very important role at this moment, Britain is in a position to talk to all the principal participants and we hope to be trusted," he said. Waldegrave was visiting Bahrain on the last leg of a Gulf tour which also included Iraq and Kuwait. He held talks with Bahrain's emir, Sheikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Sulman Al Khalifa and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

Baker resisting EC pressure

BRUSSELS (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is resisting pressure from European allies to launch new peace initiatives in the Middle East, a senior U.S. official says.

The aide said Baker stressed the need first to "fill the ground carefully" when European officials raised the issue during his eight-day tour of 15 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries which ended Friday. Baker argued that "if you seek to push the level of discussion too high, too soon, create too much international attention at the wrong level, you might pre-empt the possibility of real movement," the aide said Thursday night.

Baker was due to meet European Community (EC) Commission President Jacques Delors in Brussels Friday before flying to Paris for talks with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and then back to Washington. The subject of the Middle East came up in talks with officials in Spain and the Netherlands and would probably be pursued next month when Baker would be in Vienna for the opening of East-West arms negotiations, the U.S. official said.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek gave Baker a report Thursday about European Community efforts to revive the peace process. The Ministers from France, Greece and Spain recently visited the Middle East on behalf of the EC.

Van den Broek expressed the European view that "there is a good deal of activity and there seems to be movement," in the region, the aide told reporters aboard Baker's plane on the flight from the Hague to Brussels. The aide, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said Baker responded by advising caution and cautioning against undermining opportunities by moving too quickly.

Baker's predecessor, George Shultz, spent much of last year trying to advance a new peace initiative that failed to win acceptance from Israel and most Arabs.

Recent developments have created new possibilities for movement. Shultz opened U.S. dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in December and the Palestinian uprising continues to put pressure on Israel to advance a new peace proposal.

The U.S. aide said conditions were not ripe for Arab-Israeli negotiations and the new administration in Washington need longer consult the parties directly involved. Baker, who took office last month, has begun a review of U.S. Middle East policy. He did not give the NATO allies at the time by which Washington would decide on a strategy in the Middle East but promised to tell them once it was done.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Thursday that he was allowing the Bush administration time to set its priorities before again taking up the Middle East question. He said he hoped that at his meeting next month with Baker "this question will be raised and given the importance it needs and deserves."

He made his remarks at a news conference a day before the United States was expected again to exercise its veto to block a Security Council resolution critical of Israeli policies in the occupied territories.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Shi'ite leader says Higgins alive
TYRE (AP) — A Shi'ite Muslim leader says that Vietnam veteran William Higgins, a U.S. marine officer kidnapped a year ago Friday by pro-Iranian extremists, is still alive despite his captors' claim he has been sentenced to death as a spy. "He'll be released eventually," said Abdul Majid Saleh, political officer for the Amal militia in Tyre, 90 kilometres south of Beirut. Saleh did not elaborate on how he knew that Higgins' captors, the Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth, have not killed him.

Saudi Arabia pays PLO \$14.25 m
NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia has paid the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) the final \$14.25 million of \$850.5 million promised 10 years ago, a PLO official said Thursday. Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing states vowed at an Arab summit in 1979 to support the PLO and frontline countries with Israel for 10 years but the official said the kingdom was the only state to fully meet its pledge. King Fahd has in addition granted the PLO \$6.02 million a month for 1989 to finance the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, the Riyadh-based official said.

175 drug smugglers executed in Iran
NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's interior minister has said that 175 drug smugglers have been executed since a new anti-narcotics law took effect Jan. 21, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency quoted the minister, Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Mohtashami, as saying that Iran was willing to cooperate with other states in curbing narcotics traffic.

Kuwaiti minister recovers
KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's education minister, wounded by a hatchet-wielding friend during a card game, was quoted Thursday as saying he was attacked after trying to solve his assailant's problems. Education Minister Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri was discharged from hospital after treatment but his attacker, Abdul Aziz Khurshed, was still being treated for burns. He set himself alight after hitting the minister on the head with a hatchet. Nouri told Al Qabas newspaper he was playing cards at the home of Finance Minister Jassim Mohammad Al Khorafi Tuesday when he was attacked. "Everything was normal and we were playing and laughing... suddenly without us knowing he (Khurshed) left the room for a few minutes... I think he went to his car to bring a hatchet," the paper quoted Nouri as saying. "All of a sudden I felt a blow to the back of my head and I lifted my right hand to avoid the second blow and it struck my upper hand." After the attack, Khurshed doused his robe with petrol and set himself on fire in an apparent suicide bid. Nouri said he did not understand why Khurshed attacked him.

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15:45	Children's programme
16:00	Educational programme
17:30	The Friends
18:00	News summary
18:05	Message from Iraq
18:15	A play by Shakespeare
19:00	Local programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:45	Local programme
22:30	Arabic play
23:00	News in Arabic
23:10	Play continued
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Couture: A la Redecouverte du Monde
19:00	News in French
19:15	La Vie En France
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Natural Phenomena
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Growing Pains
21:00	Alfred Hitchcock
21:20	Saturday Variety Show
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "Scandal Sheet"
PRAYER TIMES	
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WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
The country will be affected by unstable weather conditions. Therefore clouds appear in different altitudes and there will be a chance for scattered rain. Winds will be southwesterly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with possible showery rain.	
USEFUL NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
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Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf	663522
Dr. Yousef Sammour	615648
Dr. Mohammad Abu Mahfouz	793344
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
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DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Winds will be southwesterly moderate and seas rough.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	3 / 13
Aqaba	8 / 22
Deserts	2 / 15
Jordan Valley	10 / 21
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.	
ZARQA:	
Dr. Nosh'at Amari	(—)
Khalif pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661311
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Civil Defence Emergency	622111, 637777
Fire Brigade	62209093
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	65639041
Public Security Department	656001 / 685111
Hotel Complaints	605900
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	656001 / 685111
Director (assistance)	12
Overseas Calls	17
Central Amman Telephone	622101
Repairs	661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	773111
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774311
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
AQABA:	
Company	636381
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Husseini Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	644241/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	648945
Al-Mushar Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Indian, Al-Muhajir	994164/6
Indian, Al-Muhajir	771017/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah	775111/26
Army, Marka	891612/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
IBRD:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)727275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	500 / 450
Banana	350 / 300
Banana (Mukammal)	300 / 250
Beans	800 / 700
Broad beans	700 / 600
Cabbage	250 / 180
Carrots	240 / 200
Cauliflower	230 / 180
Cucumbers	480 / 400
Dates	600 / 500
Eggplant	270 / 230
Garlic	340 / 280
Grapefruit	230 / 180
Lemon	250 / 200
Leek (per one)	160 / 120
Marrow (large)	450 / 350
Marrow (small)	700 / 600
Orange (Shamoudi)	420 / 360
Orange (local)	320 / 260
Onion (dry)	210 / 160
Onion (green)	300 / 250
Pepper (hot)	750 / 650
Pepper (sweet)	620 / 570
Potato	300 / 250
Spinach	150 / 100
Mandarin	420 / 340
Tomatoes	220 / 160

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
02:45	Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)
05:25	Cairo (MS)
12:55	Benghazi (LN)
13:40	Kuwait (KU)
17:45	Rome (AZ)
21:05	Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:55	Aqaba (RJ)
10:40	Tripoli (RJ)
11:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:10	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:40	Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
11:45	London (RJ)
12:00	Paris (RJ)
12:15	Kuwait, Doha (RJ)
19:40	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
19:45	Larnaca (RJ)
20:15	Jeddah (RJ)
20:15	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:00	Aqaba (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
04:05	Istanbul, Belgrade (JU)
06:15	Beirut (ME)
10:20	Cairo (MS)
13:30	Baghdad (IA)
13:55	Benghazi (LN)
15:00	Kuwait (KU)
18:35	Damascus (AZ)
04:30	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (3)
06:55	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (3)
09:00	New Delhi (3)
09:10	Aqaba (3)
09:10	Damascus (3)
09:30	Cairo (3)
09:50	Karachi, Dubai (3)
10:00	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (3)
15:30	New York, Moscow (3)
16:20	Miami, Vienna (3)
17:20	Amman (3)
17:55	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (3)
19:40	Tripoli (3)
21:00	Amman (3)

Abu Hassan welcomes declaration of ACC

By Ziad Al Shilleh
Al Ra'i Staff Reporter

AMMAN — President of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association Mamdouh Abu Hassan said that the declaration of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in Baghdad Thursday demonstrates the spirit of responsibility the four Arab leaders enjoy.

He described it as a starting point towards achieving the pan-Arab goal of building stability and prosperity for the whole Arab nation.

Abu Hassan was speaking in an interview with the Arabic daily Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times upon his return from Egypt where he headed the Jordanian side to the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Businessmen's Council, held in Luxor early last week.

Abu Hassan said that the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Businessmen's Council decided to hold a meeting in Amman late March to draw up a joint working paper on scopes of cooperation among the private sector institutions in the light of the establishment of the ACC.

The ACC was officially founded Thursday during a mini-summit attended by the four leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and N. Yemen. Following the preparation of the joint working paper, it will be presented to both North Yemen and Iraq for discussion and endorsement.

Abu Hassan said that the joint businessmen's council stressed that there is a broad spectrum of potential fields of cooperation between Jordan and Egypt, including vocational training, scientific research, advanced technology, engineering designs and consultations.

Abu Hassan also said that Jordan and Egypt have surpluses of industrial commodities which can be exported, thus requiring the establishing of joint export houses in both countries to promote and market these items.

Abu Hassan said the final communiqué recommended the formation of a working group, which will be entrusted with drawing up a working paper that guarantees the maximum benefit for the two Arab countries. The working group will meet in Amman in late March.



Public Security Department Director General students from the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

Police work includes participation in community development — Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali Thursday received in his office Thursday a group of distinguished students from the University of Jordan and briefed them on the department's development and programme to ensure security in the Kingdom.

Majali spoke in detail about the PSD's comprehensive security programme initiated in the Kingdom three years ago.

He said that the programme aims to promote the concept of

police work to encompass duties other than chasing criminals and referring law offenders to court authorities.

According to the new programme police work, "involves active participation by police personnel in social and economic development of the local communities," Majali noted.

"The PSD is enlisting the participation of university educated men and women to help carry out this important programme and is using the most up-to-date equip-

ment and apparatus in the process of maintaining and promoting security," Majali pointed out.

He said that the PSD has so far recruited and trained more than 700 university graduates and 4,000 school graduates for this purpose over the past three years.

The PSD, he added, is going ahead with plans to set up comprehensive security centres around the Kingdom and plans to set up 57 centres in Amman and the various governorates of the Kingdom.

Housing Bank raises number of branches operating Fridays to 12

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Bank has decided to increase to 12 the number of branches operating on Fridays at the border points, Irbid, Amman, Ma'an and Mafraq Governorates, and to extend working hours on Thursdays in these branches until 5.00 p.m., the bank's director general Zuhair Khouri said Friday.

Khouri added that the cooperation of the public with the various branches of the bank calls for appreciation and satisfaction, and stressed the bank's interest in supporting the government's decisions. "The government's decisions are aimed to safeguard citizens and their foreign currency savings and to enable them to get their reasonable needs of

foreign currency. Khouri pointed out that the bank last week met the people's needs of local and foreign currency, in accordance with the Central Bank regulations.

Khouri also said that the Housing Bank, together with the other Jordanian banks, are capable of meeting the people's needs of foreign currency. These banks have bridged the small gap caused by the closure of the money exchange firms and also contributed to stabilising the exchange rates, Khouri noted.

He said the new bank arrangements were taken within the framework of full coordination with the concerned monetary institutions.

The arrangements followed a meeting on Feb. 11 chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and attended by the bank managers and directors of financial institutions in the country.

At the meeting Rifai explained the reason behind the government's decision to close money exchange firms, saying it was aimed at putting an end to the speculation in the dinar and profiting by money changers at the expense of the national economy.

The bankers expressed their appreciation to the government for its efforts to enhance the country's financial and monetary stability and strengthen the national economy.

UNESCO chief in Amman to announce strategy to improve primary education

AMMAN (Petra) — The Director General of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Federico Mayor Zaragoza arrived in Amman Friday on a three-day visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with Jordanian government officials on promoting cooperation in cultural and educational fields.

During his stay here, the UNESCO chief is expected to announce the start of a UNESCO-sponsored programme designed to universalise primary education for the sake of eradicating illiteracy in the Arab countries by the year 2000.

The programme is designed to develop Arab education systems with a view to assist Arab states to carry out their economic and

social development plans and promote national endeavours towards achieving progress, according to a UNESCO official in Amman.

He said that the projected programme was expected to be implemented in three stages, the first of which should end by the end of 1989.

The first stage, he added, entails planning and preparation while the second, which ends in 1990, is a stage of execution, and the third, which culminates by the end of the century, will be a period of assessment.

UNESCO worked out the three-stage programme during a general meeting of specialists held in Amman in the past year and according to UNESCO offi-

cialists it aims to spread education among people of different ages and backgrounds with a view to promoting economic and social development.

The officials noted that UNESCO considered the year 1990 as a year for the eradication of illiteracy throughout the world, during which the organisation plans to mobilise national efforts and world public opinion and enlist the assistance of various organisations to help carry out its plans.

The officials said that the UNESCO director will hold a press conference Sunday at the Amman regional office to announce the start of the implementation of the three-stage programme for the Arab World.

First consignment of poultry meat import to arrive on Feb. 20

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The first consignment of imported poultry meat will arrive here on Feb. 20 and will be available in local markets by Feb. 25, thus ending nearly a month-long period of poultry meat shortage in Jordan, Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh announced here Thursday.

The minister said that before the crisis the ministry's warehouses had a total of 2,000 tonnes of imported frozen poultry meat all of which was sold to the public due to the lack of locally produced poultry meat.

Tarawneh attributed the shortage in locally-produced poultry meat to a sudden and unexpected rise in the price of animal feed on world markets and the frost wave that hit the country earlier this month and throughout January. "These were two adverse elements that affected the poultry production in Jordan," the minister added.

The shortage in poultry meat, he explained, was "more than expected, thus prompting the ministry to make speedy arrangements for the purchase of further consignments of poultry meat from world markets."

He said that the ministry also allowed local producers to raise the price of their poultry meat to partly offset the rise in the production cost.

Last month the Ministry of Supply raised the price of poultry meat to 820 fils, up from 740 fils a kilogramme, and said that the measure was necessary in view of

the high cost of feed concentrates and veterinary medicine involved in poultry meat production.

The ministry said that the increase in prices was decided upon by a specialised committee comprising the ministries of Supply, Agriculture and Industry and Trade.

Also Thursday the minister attended the opening session of a four-day symposium called to discuss ways of storing and transporting cereals and grain.

Jordan at present possesses three large silos located in the north, the south and the central regions of the country and altogether have a capacity of 335,000 tonnes, in addition to their adjoining warehouses which have a capacity of a further 170,000 tonnes.

The Ministry of Supply is currently building cold storage facilities to boost the Kingdom's grain storage potential, the minister said at the opening session.

Silos store cereals including wheat and other grains which are considered as strategic foodstuffs, and according to Tarawneh earlier this month, the country maintains on a regular basis food supplies including grain to suffice

the country for at least six months.

Storage of food in the Kingdom is part of a general strategy to ensure food security for the nation, and the government endeavours to achieve this goal by all possible means, the minister noted.

He said the Kingdom depends on its food largely on the Jordan Valley region, which has fertile soil and abundant water supply, to help produce Jordan's food needs for local consumption and export.

But, Tarawneh added, the food production sector faces continuous deficits in cereal production as a direct result of the weather conditions and the fluctuating amounts of water supply.

To solve this problem, the government has been striving to increase the country's cereal production by using modern technology in irrigation and sowing seeds, and through encouraging the private sector to lease state-owned land to produce cereals, the minister pointed out.

"The government also stores as much as possible of the locally produced or imported cereals to suffice the country for at least six months and so avoid any adverse developments on world markets," Tarawneh noted.

But, he added, there is a dire need for Jordan to promote and modernise its means of storing and transporting cereals in order to accomplish the best possible results.

World Bank team visits Jordan Valley

AMMAN (Petra) — A World Bank team, now on a visit to Jordan, met Thursday with Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, Secretary General of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and reviewed the cooperation in the implementation of projects in the Jordan Valley region.

Bani Hani paid tribute to the World Bank for its contributions towards the development of the valley and submitted a detailed briefing on the JVA's programme which include the construction of the Al Wahdah Dam on the Yarmouk River and its immense benefits for Jordan and Syria.

The World Bank and Arab and international financial institutions are expected to take part in financing the project.

The World Bank team later



JVA Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani briefs the World Bank delegation during a visit to the Jordan Valley (Petra photo)

inspected a number of projects in the Jordan Valley and visited the Al Wahdah Dam site near the Syrian border.

JVA completes studies of bids for Waleh-Nakhileh Dam engineering works

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) announced Friday that it has completed studies of bids on the engineering works submitted by a number of consultancy firms wishing to take part in the construction of the Waleh-Nakhileh Dam at the Mujib River Basin in the southern region of Jordan.

The project is to be partly financed through a JD 1.3 million grant from the European Community (EC) in accordance with an agreement signed by the government and the EC delegate in Amman towards the end of last month.

Director of JVA's Dams and Water Affairs Department Zafar Al Aalam said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the studies aim to identify the water resources available at

the dam site and Mujib River. They were based on the assumption that the dam can be constructed in the Mujib Valley where great amounts of rain water accumulates from the nearby wadis.

JVA will make a survey of the site in cooperation with a consultancy firm before deciding on priorities to be considered as a first step towards the implementation of the scheme, Aalam pointed out.

Work on the three-stage plan, according to Aalam, was expected to begin by the start of 1992 and a local engineering firm, working in cooperation with a European consultancy firm, is expected to help carry it out. Aalam added.

He noted that the first stage

entails studies of the water resources in Mujib area, preparing a feasibility study, a survey of the dam site and identifying the construction cost. This stage will not begin before April 1990 and could be completed by June of the year, Aalam explained.

He said the second stage entails preparation of the final designs and tender documents for the dam. This could begin by August 1990 and end by May 1991, while the third stage, entails awarding the tender to the contractors to embark on the project by the beginning of 1992.

The EC grant to Jordan was part of a protocol, signed by the two sides in 1987, which provides for a grant of JD 22.75 million to help Jordan carry out development projects in a number of fields.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

UNIVERSITY HOSTS U.K. THEATRE GROUP: The University of Jordan is co-sponsoring with the British Council a visit from Britain's famous London Shakespeare Group to perform the world's most famous love story: Romeo and Juliet. The performances of this play by William Shakespeare are intended for university and school students and take place on Feb. 21 and 22. (J.T.)

LUCKY WINNER: Othman Nashashibi was the lucky winner last when he won an Apple Macintosh Plus Computer. The ceremony for drawing the prize was held at the Marriott Hotel and was sponsored by IDE Systems Co, the Apple Authorised dealer in Jordan. (J.T.)

BA GETS NEW MANAGER: Geoffrey Rhodes has recently arrived in Amman to take up the appointment of area manager for Jordan, Syria and Lebanon based in Amman. He is 42 years old and married with two boys. He has spent seven years in USA. Prior to that had worked throughout the Middle East including five years in Egypt as customer services manager. (J.T.)

Duo Gerard present beautiful piano recital

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the Patronage of Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad, the National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation, in cooperation with the French Cultural Centre presented a beautiful piano recital Thursday Feb. 16, 1989, at the Philadelphia International Hotel, by Lucette and Jean-Claude Gerard.

riel Faure and "Cortège Burlesque" by Chabrier. After the intermission, Lucette and Jean-Claude Gerard started with Ravel's "Ma Mère l'Oye" (Mother Goose), a series of short tales, the most beautiful being "Le Jardin Féerique." The famous "Rhapsodie Espagnole," in four parts, ended with a magnificent "Feria" (Fair).

To end the concert, and before an encore which brought the duo to play a "charming" "Dance Slave" by Dvorak, Lucette and Jean-Claude gave the best of their art with "La Valse" by Ravel. Excellent and very expressive work by Lucette Gerard on the "Trebble" side of the Keyboard, marvellous harmonies of Ravel (his trademark) made "La Valse" the finest moment of the recital.

In spite of the fact that the hall at the Philadelphia was not particularly a concert hall, the acoustics were satisfactory enough, but whether due to the room's specifications, to the instrument itself or to the performers style, one could feel a lack of dynamic expression (difference of contrast between the "piano" and the "forte") throughout the performance, except for "La Valse" which was almost a perfection.

Both members of the Duo Gerard come from southern France and have studied at the conservatories of Nîmes and Marseille. They decided years ago to go on a solo career, have won numerous prizes and play in France as well as abroad.

MUSIC REVIEW

With a programme which included works by Claude Debussy, Gabriel Faure, Emmanuel Chabrier in the first part, and Maurice Ravel in the second, the selection of the Duo Gerard proved perfectly coherent — exclusively French compositions and spanning the end of the 19th century till the beginning of the 20th.

However the distinguishing mark of the Duo Gerard is their four-hand playing which has become a rarity nowadays. In addition to being particularly spectacular to see, four-hand piano playing takes the instrument to orchestral heights. The already extraordinary and well known polyphonic capabilities of the keyboard, when played by one musician, are even more impressive when four hands are at work on the instrument.

The first part of the recital opened with a "Petite Suite" by Debussy, "Dolly" by Gab-

24 Jordanian artists display variety of styles

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At the Spanish Cultural Centre and until the end of the month is a group exhibition of 24 Jordanian artists. As with any group show the standard of work on display is variable but what is always interesting about these kind of exhibitions is that amongst the more established names like Mahmood Taba, Ahmad Nawash and Abdul Raouf Shamoun who consistently produce good work are usually some new names whose work holds promise for the future.

One of these is Namat Al Nasser. In his two small abstract prints, particularly in the black and white impression of a rock splashing down into water, he has managed to exploit many facets of this underused media to produce images full of movement and texture. Another is Nsaf Al Rabadi. Although very heavily inspired by cubism as to be almost copies, this artist's pencil drawings nevertheless show a deep understanding of the style which has enabled her to translate her own ideas through it. The two carefully rendered drawings executed in soft tonalities of grey

touched with sienna thus have a slightly oriental feel about them which is achieved through tiny almost inconsequential details — a patch of geometrically patterned wallpaper, a small band playing traditional Arab instruments.

Another new name, although one more familiar from her writing is Hind Lara Mango. Her two watercolours particularly the portrait are exciting for their spontaneous use of deep dark colours.

ART REVIEW

Good work also comes from increasingly familiar names like Mohammad Jalous, whose wrapped figures fight to escape from the ever engulfing stokes of white paint, Ghada Dahdaleh who has submitted two abstract prints in which blocks of pinks and purples are balanced with areas of white and Ra'ed Al Dahleh, who is exhibiting again some of his glossy black and white ceramic ware first seen at the large group exhibition held earlier this year at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Two very abstract pieces from Nawal Abdullah Kattan promise more good work in her forthcom-

ing solo show later this year. In bright yet matt colours Nawal's grids appear to let in the light, like the sun creeping in through closed Venetian blinds. The purples, greens and blues criss-cross one another in never-repeating patterns while the splashes of paint across their surface and energy and movement.

More good abstract work comes from Khaled Kreiss. In these Kreiss seems to be moving away from his more sombre colours into brighter shades that melt one into another. These uniformly smooth and well worked surfaces only break up to allow Kreiss' motifs to glimmer through and we struggle to see what his inviting arches hide in their secret recesses.

New work, very different from that exhibited at the Spanish Cultural Centre last year, comes from Jamal Ashour. As it is difficult to assess the work of such a promising artist as Ashour from the two pieces on display we look forward to seeing more of his work when it will be exhibited along with new work of Hazem Zoubi and others at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery next month.

With the emphasis very much

on abstract work, more figurative pieces stand out in contrast. The large watercolour landscape of Mukarram Rifai is a confirmation of her ability in this media in which she has now firmly established her own direction. Very soft and loosely defined, her work glows with lovely autumn colours and we feel, rather than see, the wetness of the undergrowth, the heavy overcast sky and the trees, their leaves dripping with water from the still falling rain.

And then there is the figurative work of Yousef Baddawi. Baddawi's continued fascination with the modern Arab man in his suit complemented with hat and the ever present cigarette has allowed him to produce some of his best work to date. His impressionistic studies are always nicely observed and this large oil is no exception. Baddawi is drawing our attention to the small but inescapable details by painting his sitter in a relaxed pose against a restful background.

The exhibition is completed with work from Diana Sbammouni, Yousef Hussein, Kamal Kabar, Mamoun Doubian, Magaret Tadros, Sabahat, Rasdan, Mohammad Kaitouqa and Abdul Nasser Odeh.

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VEGETABLE ORZATA

GATEAU DELICATES FROM TROLLEY

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by Paul and Emanuel Guiragoussian at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- * The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- * An exhibition of models of the Jordanian plastic art, in which 22 Jordanian artists are participating, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition entitled "The Tuhingien Atlas of the Middle East" at the Department of Geography, the University of Jordan.
- * A photography exhibition entitled "Under Pure Skies" exhibiting 100 19th century photographs of the Middle East at the Yarmouk University.
- * An exhibition of paintings of Jordan by Luz Marina Robertson at the Petra Bank Gallery.

CONCERT

- * A concert by the German chamber music ensemble "Consortium Classicum" featuring works by Haydn, Weber, Hummel and Mozart at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- * A poetry recital by Dr. Jamil 'Alouh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

Jordan Times

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A welcome guest

SOVIET Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's upcoming visit to Amman and other Arab capitals in the Middle East would provide the missing link in the flurry of diplomatic activity centred on the Arab-Israeli conflict. As the parties to the Middle East conflict have yet to hear the last word from Moscow on the conceptual framework for the resolution of the Palestinian dispute, the working visit of Mr. Shevardnadze to the region would indeed help shape the anticipated settlement.

To begin with the Soviet Union has many valuable cards in its hands and its leverage with Israel is no small matter. Many silent bridges have been constructed of late between Moscow and Tel Aviv. The rapport between the two countries has been burgeoned constantly on more than one level. It is no secret that Israel seeks many things from the Soviet Union and most probably will be willing to pay for them in due course. After all this is the international game of politics. This is not to mention that the Eastern Bloc record of relations with Israel in the early years was impeccable, as far as Israel was concerned, and more forthcoming than that with the Western countries. Likewise, the Soviet Union is a good friend of the Arabs and stood by them in times of need on more than one occasion. By flexing its political muscles in the area, whether on the Arab or Israeli side, the Soviet Union stands to energise the peace process in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Seen against this backdrop, the belated working visit of Mr. Shevardnadze to the Arab capitals in the Middle East is a strong boost to the genuine search for a settlement of the Palestine conflict and all the other conflicts that ensued therefrom. Needless to add, Moscow's position in the Middle East, and indeed worldwide, has been fortified by its withdrawal from Afghanistan. Its involvement there bled its resources and diverted its attention from other pressing international issues. The first beneficiary of this Soviet disengagement from Afghanistan should be the Middle East region and in particular the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The governments and peoples of this area expect now a concentrated effort by the Soviet Union to lend support to the momentum achieved thus far in the peace process, in the wake of the Palestinian uprising, Jordan's decision to cut off administrative and legal ties with the West Bank and the commencement of the American-Palestinian dialogue. Therefore it is in order to say welcome to the Soviet foreign minister and express the hope that his visit would be followed by other visits in the future.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THE creation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) is the theme of editorials in all Arabic daily newspapers Friday. Al Ra'i daily said that 80 million Arabs living in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen were rejoicing on Thursday over the proclamation of the new economic alliance that would take their countries a further step towards total unity. Indeed, Feb. 16, 1989 was a historic day for the Arab Nation; and the 80 million Arabs have all the right to celebrate the event which has been aspired by the Arab countries and become a reality at the hands of the four leaders, the paper noted. It said that the meeting in Baghdad represented a miniature of the greater pan-Arab unity which is still to come and which could become a reality any moment opening further prospects for the future. The proclamation of the economic alliance in Baghdad the paper concluded was a national triumph, further deepening the meaning of pan-Arab solidarity and paving the way for more serious contribution on the part of the four countries towards a stronger Arab Nation.

The editor of Al Ra'i daily dwells on the Arab Cooperation Council that groups Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen — describing it as an initial step leading towards an all-out unity among the Arabs. Rakan Al Majali gives credit to His Majesty King Hussein who, he says, considers the formation of the economic alliance as a unity of cells within the one united body of the Arab Nation. This alliance comes at a crucial moment in Arab history and at a time when the Arabs are in dire need of united action in the face of the common challenges, the writer says. The alliance which now embodies Baghdad, Sanaa, Cairo and Amman will tomorrow encompass Riyadh, Damascus and Algiers; and later will group the whole Arab family, the writer notes. Indeed Arab unity began with the Arab summit meeting in Baghdad in 1978 the writer concludes; and was followed by the Amman summit of 1987 which paved the way for consensus and agreement among the Arabs, and will sooner or later be crowned with another summit in Riyadh to put finishing touches to an all-out unity among the Arabs.

Al Dustour daily said that the large enthusiastic crowds that thronged the streets and the squares of Amman on Thursday to welcome King Hussein back home from the historic meeting in Baghdad is a clear manifestation of the joy created in the hearts of the Jordanian people over the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council. The people of Jordan are overwhelmed with delight and happiness over the event, which is indeed a miniature unity, paving the way for a greater united nation which is aspired by millions of Arab people, the paper noted. It said that the formation of the new alliance can be rightly considered as a nucleus for the aspired unity specially now that the Arabs are grouped into three blocs, similar in form and united in purpose. Economic integration within the Arab World is indeed the first step towards the attainment of unity which can come through stages and through resolve and determination by the Arab people and their leaders, the paper added. It said that the new alliance is unlike previous attempts at achieving unity between a number of Arab states which failed due to lack of proper step-by-step preparations and planned action.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the scenes in Amman streets on Thursday represent a true cohesion between the Jordanian leadership and people and reflect the people's great love for their monarch. The Jordanian family is rejoicing over the King's achievement that resulted in the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council in Baghdad; and the cheering and dancing in the streets stand witness for the great respect for the leader and his accomplishments, the paper noted.

Palestinians determined to fight despite hardships

By Gail Fitzer
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinians fighting against Israeli occupation are suffering from economic sanctions, unemployment and a drop in the value of their money.

But they are determined to continue the struggle to create an independent Palestinian economy.

"The intifada created a dream and until the Palestinians achieve their dream which is an independent Palestinian state and full rights, they'll keep going," the president of the General Federation of West Bank Trade Unions, Shaber Saed, said.

Already hard hit by Israeli taxes, frequent general strikes and high unemployment, Palestinians are now facing further economic hardship due to a substantial drop in the value of the Jordanian dinar against the dollar over the past year.

"We are going through very hard economic times but everybody is willing to sacrifice," Marwan Amad, head of the Arab Hotel Association has said.

Saed said unemployment had

reached 39 per cent in the West Bank and Gaza compared to 15 per cent in December 1987, when the revolt in the Israeli-occupied territories began.

About 150,000 Palestinians worked in Israel before the uprising and that figure was now down to 60,000, he said.

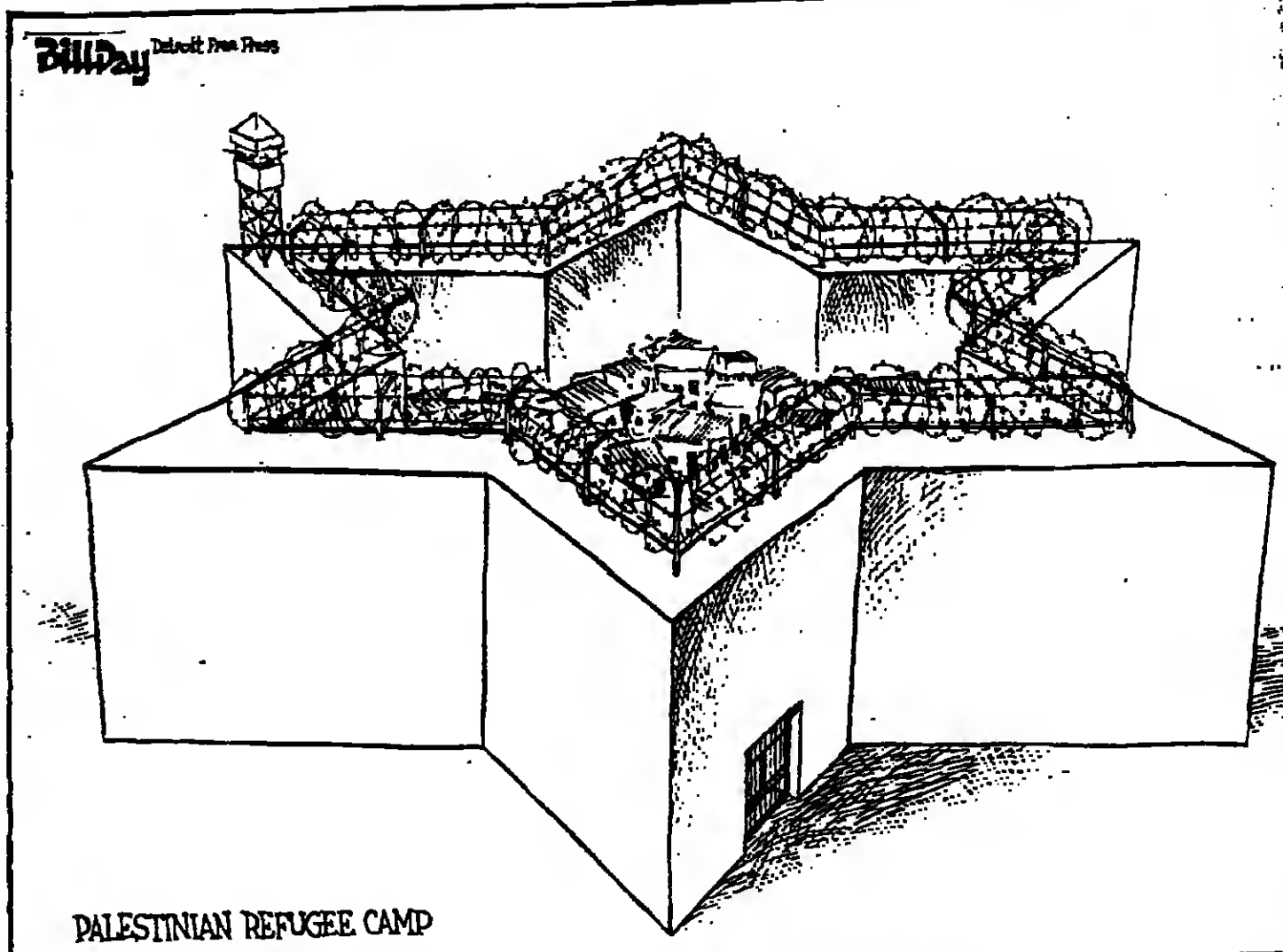
An Israeli labour ministry spokesman denied the figures, saying unemployment in the territories was less than two per cent while the number of Palestinians working in Israel remained unchanged at 110,000.

Many Palestinians have quit their jobs in Israel and Israeli employers have hired other workers to replace West Bank and Gaza labourers who failed to show up on general strike days.

The strikes called by the underground leaders of the uprising have also badly hurt shop owners, many of whom have closed their stores indefinitely.

Saed said the drop in the Jordanian dinar has hurt Palestinians in the territories more than the Jordanians themselves because there is no government control over the exchange rates.

The dinar is a widely-used currency in the West Bank and Gaza



Strip.

In an effort to reduce Palestinian dependence on the Israeli economy, the leaders of the revolt have called on residents of

the territories to boycott Israeli products and buy goods manufactured in the occupied areas.

The bank of Israel said last week that Israel's trade surplus in

goods and services exported to the West Bank and Gaza fell to \$56 million in 1988 from \$174 million the previous year, while its imports from the territories dropped from \$304 million in

1987 to \$170 million in 1988. The West Bank economy from Israeli measures and to make it independent. Now after the intifada, the Palestinian economy has become stronger," Saed said.

Rumours across the Khyber Pass

By Tariq Ali

FOR THE last ten years, Islamabad has been the organising centre of the campaign to get the Soviet Union out of Afghanistan. Now that the bulk of the Red Army has left Kabul, Islamabad is plagued by uncertainties. From Kabul itself, there are strong rumours reaching the Pakistani capital which suggest that the Afghan army will stage a coup, topple Najibullah, and offer a deal to the Mujahideen commanders in the field. The spectre which haunts the Pakistani foreign office however, is that of an interim government.

When I spoke to the prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, earlier this week, she told me that she favoured "an interim government which had the backing of all the different groups... the important thing is to avoid any more bloodshed."

If General Zia had still been alive and in power in Islamabad, there is little doubt that he would have been pressing for one particular solution in Afghanistan: the victory of his own special faction, the clerico-fascists of the Hezbe-Islami under the leadership of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. In order to ensure such a victory, Pakistan Inter-Services-Intelligence (ISI) would have provided the necessary manpower in the shape of Pakistani soldiers masquerading as "irregulars" or "volunteers". In return for all this, Hekmatyar had boasted that Kabul would be renamed Ziaabad and the country used as a base to "liberate the Muslims of Soviet Central Asia."

This plan, the last half of which

was always pure fantasy, has now had to be discarded.

Benazir Bhutto's election victory irritated the ISI and Hekmatyar, even though the new government has found it virtually impossible to make any substantial shift as far as Afghanistan is concerned. It was too late. Everything was already in motion, and it was not considered productive to throw a frozen fish straight into a hot frying pan.

Zia's removal, however, did prompt a modification of the plan, largely under Washington's influence. The consensus, with the exception of some die-hard elements within the ISI, now appears to be to give the moderate elements within the Mujahideen camp a much bigger share in a future government, in order to prevent a clean sweep by the fundamentalists.

Leaving aside the differences between the Iranian-supported groups and the Peshawar Alliance, there is an additional problem for the West. The Mujahideen commanders in the field might not relish the idea of handing over power to those who did a great deal of talking, but little else.

In this regard, Robert Flaten, Director of Afghanistan Affairs in the U.S. State Department, suggested some weeks ago that the new regime "will be an Afghan government, which will be different than any other government, anywhere in the world... it probably will be a rather extensively federalised system, in which substantial powers will remain in the provinces and various regions." This suggests that Washington would accept a de facto segmentation of the coun-

try, under differing Mujahideen warlords. But such an arrangement begs an obvious question. Who will keep the peace between them?

When I asked Bhutto whether there were any guarantees of a return to stability, even after the fall of the PDPA, she was not particularly sanguine: "You've touched upon the nerve centre. This is the reason why it is important that instead of encouraging one group or another, the Afghans reach a method to find their own consensus. Only a consensual arrangement can survive."

Ever since the Soviet intervention in 1978, the situation in Afghanistan has dominated Western perceptions of Pakistan. It is unlikely that Zia would have lasted as long as he did without the presence of the Red Army in the neighbouring country.

Sadly, it is unlikely that the Soviet withdrawal will, of itself, remove the Afghan factor from Pakistani politics. The three million Afghan refugees will not leave Pakistan unless they are convinced that peace has really returned and there is a massive effort by the West and the USSR to reconstruct the country's economy. Benazir Bhutto agonises over uncertainties and with good reason. If a new civil war erupts, this time between different factions of the Mujahideen, it is bound to spill over into Pakistan.

The grim spectre of Lebanon confronts a regime trying desperately to democratise the country. If there is continuing unrest in Afghanistan and it leads to open clashes in Pakistani cities, the unformed politicians inside the GHQ in Rawalpindi are unlikely

to remain passive spectators.

The mood in Pakistan is one of prudent optimism. Perestroika will take a long time, but glasnost is already there and the citizens are beginning to breathe again. Women's rights are being restored. Drug barons are being extradited to the United States. The state television network reports the speeches and activities of the opposition: the press is enjoying a freedom which has always been in short supply in the country. The fundamentalists are angry that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is in power, but apart from abuse they have nothing concrete to offer. Far more ominous is the resistance the new regime is encountering from within the civilian bureaucracy and elements within the ISI. Civil service sabotage is, of course, not unique to Pakistan, but it takes on a sinister hue when accompanied by black propaganda which reassures the faithful that "this regime will only last another few months."

On the international level there is a great deal of goodwill for the new government. A visiting Swedish delegation led by a cabinet minister told Bhutto that they were delighted at the restoration of democracy. She thanked them for providing asylum to members of her party during the cruel years of Zia's dictatorship. The Soviet foreign minister told her that his country wanted to restore normal relations with Pakistan and invited her to visit the USSR. Most important of all, the Indian prime minister responded warmly to her proposals for bilateral agreements during the recent South Asian summit and Arab leaders



Bhutto: Avoid more bloodshed

encouraged her to move towards a detente with India. All these moves are tied to loosening the grip of the army on Pakistan's political life and economy. A great deal is at stake and veteran democrats in Pakistan stress that this is the country's last chance. If the Afghan groups which the West, China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have been arming

for the last ten years now turn these weapons against each other, they will, without doubt, destabilise the fragile democracy that exists in Pakistan, but they could unwittingly do much more damage. For if chaos returns to Pakistan, there will be many hawks in Delhi who will suggest that caution should be thrown to the winds. — The Guardian.

NATO gears up for table-top war with Moscow

By Richard Balmforth
Reuters

BRUSSELS — It may start with a crisis in the Soviet Bloc and end with NATO rolling out its nuclear weapons against the Warsaw Pact. When it's all over, Western officials go home, well satisfied with the lessons they have learnt. It is completely fictitious, and not a shot will be fired in real life.

The "war" is the 10th Wintex-Cimex, a table-top North Atlantic Treaty Organisation exercise to test decision-making within the 16-nation alliance as conflict approaches.

Thrilling thoughts of East-West arms cuts firmly into the background, thousands of officials from 14 allied countries will act through the roles that fate could hand them in the build-up to world war three.

For two weeks from February 24, they will play out an imaginary scenario directed from NATO headquarters in Brussels that will propel them inexorably into battle.

In national capitals, stand-ins will mostly act the role of Western leaders.

But officials said that at some stage many actual leaders, including Britain's Margaret Thatcher and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, would be brought in to the exercise to make the executive decisions that would face them on the day.

The paper exercise, which involves no troops, ends on March 9 — ironically just as real-life

talks get under way in Vienna to reduce the firepower on Europe's standing armies.

NATO officials reject suggestions that the timing is unfortunate or that holding Wintex is out of spirit with the new East-West climate.

"This is a nuts and bolts exercise, the sort that NATO has to have if it is to have a credible defence," one said.

For those participating in Wintex, which is held every two years, it means two weeks of erratic shift-work, late-night calls and round-the-clock crisis meetings.

On past form, senior officials in NATO's front-line state West Germany will form a mock wartime cabinet and move into an underground bunker.

Armed forces chiefs in national capitals and supreme allied commander Europe John Galvin at his headquarters in Mons, southern Belgium, go through procedures to mobilise "blue" forces and bring in reinforcements as confrontation looms.

Officials refuse to discuss the pre-scripted scenario or the origins of the fictional crisis that leads to war.

"It is a purely procedural exercise based on a hypothetical scenario with no relation to present events," an alliance spokesman said.

A NATO insider put it more bluntly. "There's some foul-up in Eastern Europe. Both sides face off and then go to war."

The exercise may, for instance,

start with a diplomatic incident that rapidly mushrooms into crisis.

Deterrence — the bedrock of NATO's military strategy — fails and the Warsaw Pact, undaunted by the West's military might, launches a land offensive against Western Europe.

A big concern of NATO is that in a real-life crisis the Kremlin

might throw up a smokescreen of contradictory political signals that would confuse the allies and give Moscow valuable mobilisation time.

Officials say the exercise is aimed at testing "command, control and consultation procedures" — in other words, it examines how quickly the allies wake up to what is happening and manage to

agree on the right course of action.

At NATO headquarters, diplomatic delegations man telephone hotlines to their political leaders back home. Message traffic flows thick and fast as the crisis grows.

National governments hold simulated emergency cabinet meetings. At NATO headquar-

ters, Secretary-General Manfred Woerner presides over mock sessions of the North Atlantic Council meeting almost permanently.

Wintex directors at NATO headquarters play the "orange" enemy forces, dictating developments in the scenario by injecting new enemy action at every turn that jerks the participants along a chain of events to war.

France, outside NATO's military structure, does not take part. Greece also boycotts the exercise.

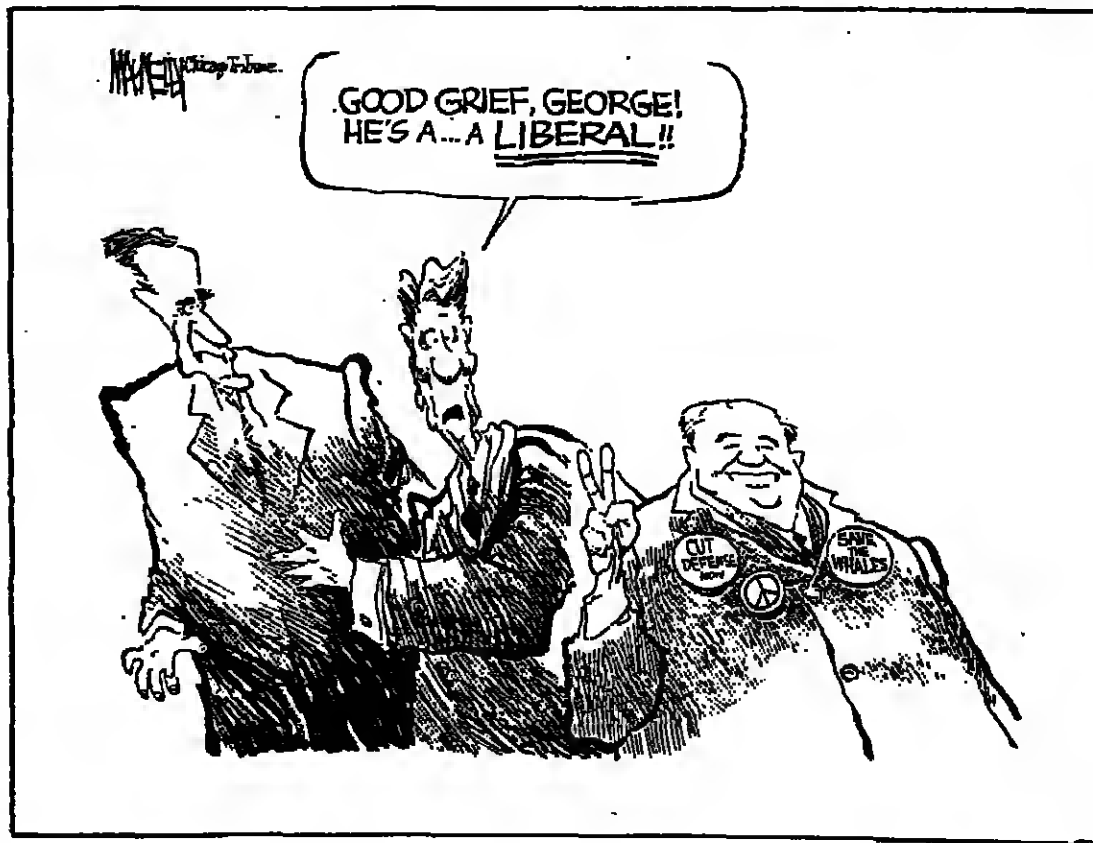
As the West reaches a point of general alert, Galvin takes over command of the national armies of member states to direct defences — as he would in reality.

Decisions would be made to rush U.S. forces to beleaguered Europe by land and sea and take pre-positioned stocks of hardware out of mothballs.

Under NATO thinking, allied forces manage to hold the line until, faced with unacceptable losses and exhausted firepower, the supreme allied commander asks the political authorities to release nuclear weapons.

NATO, which reserves the right to "go nuclear" first, envisages selective use of a nuclear weapon against a Warsaw Pact military installation to show determination to escalate into invading forces withdrawal.

The nightmare always has a fairy-tale ending that justifies NATO strategy. "We go nuclear, the enemy understands, and solve and withdraws from NATO territory," an official said.



Features



Victims of the "butterfly-bombs" and the small mines



Helping children of war

By Girard C. Steichen
The Associated Press

OBERHAUSEN — In a courtyard outside a modest physical therapy ward, 8-year-old Mohammad Nazir practices hairpin turns at top speed in his new wheelchair. Six months ago, doctors amputated both of his legs above the knees after he was wounded in fighting in Afghanistan.

"He's one of the lucky ones," says Wolfgang Mertens, who works for a West German foundation that helps young victims of war.

"After more surgery, Mohammad will someday be able to walk again with the help of artificial legs," Mertens said. "Many of the other children have serious bone infections. Many will lose more limbs."

Nazir is among 46 Afghan children who have been flown to West Germany within the past month for treatment with the help of Friedensdorf International, a group that has been helping children wounded in wars for more than 20 years.

Thirty-one badly injured Afghan children arrived in West Germany Feb. 2 after a two-day ordeal that Friedensdorf Direc-

tor Ronald Gegenfurtner described as "one of the most difficult we have ever made."

The children and their four guardians arrived at Frankfurt airport on an airline passenger jet after stops in India, Kuwait and Switzerland.

"It was the only way to get them out," said Gegenfurtner, referring to the necessity of booking seats on a jetliner ill-suited to accommodate wounded children.

There was no space for stretchers and the children could only lie as flat as the seatbacks would allow, Gegenfurtner said.

"These children have suffered terribly and there are thousands more just like them in Afghanistan in desperate need of help," Gegenfurtner told the Associated Press from his office at Friedensdorf, or peace village, on the outskirts of Oberhausen.

Gegenfurtner said that among the children was a 14-year-old girl whose leg was shattered by shrapnel during a rocket attack.

"She had already lost one leg and the wounded leg developed a serious infection," Gegenfurtner said. "We hope we can save the leg because otherwise she'll end up a beggar on a Kabul street."

Gegenfurtner had high praise for the doctors in Afghanistan,

but said they were working under impossible conditions.

"The doctors there are working around the clock. But they can't create antibiotics by magic."

He said crates of antibiotics are stacked up and idle at Bojdar staging points, unable to be delivered because of the fighting and bureaucratic delays.

The Afghan children were taken to hospitals across West Germany immediately after their arrival. Their treatment is paid for by donations. Many doctors perform surgery without charge, Gegenfurtner said.

After they are released from the hospital, the children convalesce at peace village, a cluster of cottages and rehabilitation facilities on a quiet, green hill outside industrial Oberhausen.

Friedensdorf was founded in 1967 and immediately began helping children wounded in the Vietnam war.

Gegenfurtner said the village continues to help Vietnamese children suffering from tumors and birth defects, which doctors blame on the dioxin-laced defoliant agent orange.

Some veterans and researchers contend dioxin causes cancer and birth defects, but the U.S. defense department says its studies



An Afghan doctor attending to children in Afghanistan

have not proven a link.

Friedensdorf has also helped several Vietnamese children begin new lives in West Germany because it was impossible to send them home after the war ended in 1975, Gegenfurtner said.

"They had been here too long and their families were scattered or missing," he said.

Now, almost all of the children brought to West Germany are sent home after they recover, Gegenfurtner said.

The foundation has also helped children from Lebanon, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Pakistan and several African nations, Gegenfurtner said.

Medical and food supplies are also sent to those countries, he

said.

Mertens, a counsellor and physical therapist, says the staff also tries to help the children with the psychological scars of war.

But he said the children often teach adults about the strengths needed to help each other recover.

"I was at a loss at first when two children awoke from the anesthetic and discovered they had lost limbs," Mertens said.

"After the initial shock, they started telling each other jokes to get them through the tough first phase."

"Despite everything they've been through, they have an immense will to live and to enjoy life," Mertens said.

A novelty kid at 75

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

LONDON — In the down-to-earth manner of someone who has never disavowed his humble American roots, Larry Adler finds the word "harmonica" pretentious.

It's "toffee-nosed," says the American maestro of the mouth organ, using a Britishism picked up during the 40 years he has lived in London.

So mouth organ it is, and Adler is still its most famous practitioner in a career that put him on the stage at 14, took him to the pinnacle of fame in the United States, dragged him through the nightmare of the 1950s anti-Communist witchhunts and finally deposited him in England.

One is enough

"You're a novelty, kid," he recalls the American singer Rudy Vallee telling him when he was starting out. "Save your money because once they hear you, that's it. They'll never want to hear it again."

At 75, Adler is still something of a novelty for making an art

form out of an instrument that he says "has never gotten over its street ragamuffin connotations."

Music remains his chief pursuit, with sidelines in reviewing restaurants, telling jokes, punctuating pomposity and writing quirky letters to the satirical journal Private Eye — which he lists in who's who as his "obsession."

Adler's talents were on display again at the beginning of February, the night before his 75th birthday, when he threw his own celebration concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

"I couldn't get the Albert for the 10th so I took the 9th, and I hope I'll get so many encores that the concert will go past midnight and it'll become my birthday," he says.

"I don't deny that it's a self-indulgent exercise, but I don't become 75 all that often."

Sitting in his apartment on a quiet London street, Adler looks as fit and wiry as in the early photographs of the young man hunched over his mouth organ.

Tatiana

He cycles, plays tennis, and after two divorces and four chil-

dren, says his latest flame is a Peruvian restaurateur named Tatiana — "a great lady. She makes me laugh more than anybody I know... she won't admit she's my fiancée but she is."

His repertoire ranges from Gershwin to Bach, Jazz to classical Spanish music — a result, he says, of hearing Al Jolson and Rachmaninoff when he was 5 and deciding that "I wanted to be both of them."

As a child he studied piano at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore but got expelled for playing "Yes, we have no bananas today," to annoy a pompous music examiner.

Then he read about a mouth organ band being formed in Baltimore by Fred Sonnen of Hohner, the German mouth organ manufacturer.

"I'd never touched a mouth organ but it sounded interesting," he says. "I was a natural musician. I had a helluva good ear, and the mouth organ keyboard is very easy to play."

At 14 he ran away to New York to elbow his way into show business. "You took," his first auditioner told him, so he sneaked into Rudy Vallee's dressing room and flung a spot on the crooner's talent show. His performance won him a contract to tour with a band.

Adler gave his first classical recital in London in 1936, and his first symphony performance in Sydney, Australia in 1939. For the first time, audiences were hearing Bach, Ravel and Gershwin's "Rhapsody in blue" through a new, highly evocative medium.

But for a long time he had "a kind of guilty feeling." Was he a musician, or still a novelty? In 1952, he says, he got his answer.

By Laurinda Keys
The Associated Press

SKUKUZA, South Africa — An American inventor and wildlife researcher at Kruger National Park say they have achieved a major breakthrough in conservation — an immunisation system that can stop epidemics in large, free-ranging mammals.

The bio-bullet, a vaccine in a biodegradable bullet that can be fired by air rifle from a helicopter chasing stampeding herds, has been used for three years to immunise animals ranging from warthogs to elephants against diseases that have, in the past, nearly wiped out species in the park.

Anthrax is endemic in the northern part of 2-million-hectare Kruger, an area where 200 rare roan antelope like to roam. Before 1970, when the park began an inoculation programme by firing disposable darts at the animals from the air, severe outbreaks had affected most of the herd animals.

"If we have another major outbreak, we have a method now of controlling the epidemic. Before, we could do nothing but count the carcasses," said Valerius de Vos, head of research at Kruger. "I consider this a major breakthrough.... It will be used widely in the future."

How widely depends to some extent on politics. While South Africa's wildlife management programme is regarded as the best on the continent, its experts seldom visit other African countries where similar problems exist. Black African governments restrict contact with South Africa because of apartheid, its system of racial separation.

"It's a pity. The rest of Africa needs us and we need them. We've got expertise and we need interaction," De Vos said.

For instance, endangered black rhinos are increasing in South Africa and declining elsewhere. Due to South African conservation efforts, the white rhino was removed from the endangered category worldwide.

Representatives of private

wildlife groups sometimes cross the borders, and exchanges take place through the mail, but many western universities won't even send copies of research papers to Kruger's scientists.

De Vos said the air rifle that fires the bio-bullet can be locally produced, but not the bullet itself. He worries that sanctions could disrupt the immunisation programme.

There also has been talk of banning shipments of four-wheel drive vehicles to South Africa from Japan, because they have military potential.

"That's going to affect us," De Vos said. "I don't know what we're going to do, but I guess we can keep going with two-wheel drive vehicles."

In 1973, De Vos and his team began inoculating large mammals by firing dart-syringes from the air. Disadvantages included large numbers of plastic darts left on the ground, and the time and cost of manufacturing the syringes.

De Vos contacted American inventor Fred Paul, who had developed the bio-bullet and used it to vaccinate livestock and wild highborn sheep. Paul came to Kruger Park to assist the research, which included numerous test firings to determine the right size and shape to use.

Cellulose Polymer

The bullet can be fired rapidly, allowing marksmen to inoculate about 1,500 animals a day with 80 per cent accuracy. The material, a cellulose polymer, dissolves inside the animal, releasing the vaccine.

That kind of volume and accuracy is "impressive, to say the least... that's a lot of animals," said Maurice Lefranc, Director of the Institute for Wildlife Research, a branch of U.S. National Wildlife Federation.

The South African park leads itself to such an effort because it has wide open spaces and concentrations of animals, Lefranc said.

The project illustrates the place that South African wildlife researchers have in the forefront of species preservation and the

National Park board's philosophy about when to let nature take its course and when man should intervene.

"South Africa has taken a real strong leadership in the preservation and conservation of their wildlife," said Dr. Werner Heuschle, an endangered species specialist at the San Diego zoo.

"Some of their game parks are among the best managed in the world."

One researcher at Kruger is capturing Impala to find a cure for a human-caused stress disease that occurs when Antelope are chased for long distances and caught in a net. In the wild, predators chase them only for short distances.

The main form of research at Kruger is surveillance — taking aerial photos of vegetation, counting animals, taking blood levels of elephants to see if car exhaust affects them. The data is

fed into computers to help determine what projects are needed in the park.

Roads affect the natural spread of fire, so controlled fires are set deliberately. Fenced animals cannot migrate during drought, so dams are built.

In the early 1970s, wildebeest rapidly diminished. A new fence around the park had cut off one herd's traditional migration route, and heavy rainfall encouraged long grass, rather than the short grass the wildebeest like.

Managers could have set fires to eliminate the tall grass. Instead, they decided to kill off lions and hyenas that preyed on the wildebeest.

To prevent the need for such action in the future, Gus Mills, the chief predator researcher, and his team spend two weeks at a time following lions, cheetah and leopards to monitor their eating habits.

"Are they depressing the prey in large numbers or living in harmony with their environment?" Are questions Mills wants to answer.

Although Anthrax and foot-and-mouth disease are natural African diseases, they are controlled because it would take 20 to 30 years for the herds to recover from an epidemic.

"Draconic fluctuations in animal populations are part of nature, but we can't afford that," said De Vos. "We cull (shoot) buffalo and elephant, and sometimes hippo. These are species that can outgrow the system. The rest of the animals are controlled by the system."

"Drought, predation, disease all act as controls. For the buffalo and elephant, the main predator in the past was man. We have taken man out of it, so now we're bringing man back in, in a controlled way."



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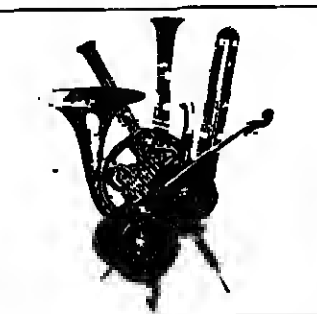
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Nazer urges U.S. not to tax oil imports

OKLAHOMA CITY (R) — The United States would only hurt its own economy in the long run if it imposed a fee on oil imports, the Saudi Arabian oil minister said Thursday.

"Fees and taxes distort economic realities and create an illusion of protection and security," Hisham Nazer told a group of Oklahoma business leaders. "They may give short-term benefits but guarantee long term harm. I believe that fee is likely to amount to an administrative nightmare, subsidize inefficiency and do little or nothing to promote oil and gas production here in Oklahoma or elsewhere."

Nazer also urged cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers to stabilize prices. "We in Saudi Arabia are firm in our belief that sharp fluctuations in oil prices and volumes of production and exports are not good for us," he said. "No single country can control the market."

Nazer said Saudi Arabia was willing to cooperate with other producers if they in return help. "I would simply like to reiterate that Saudi Arabia will strictly

abide by the current OPEC production agreement, provided other producers do the same, and hopefully non-OPEC producers cooperate," he said.

Analysts expect no firm action by non-OPEC states

Meanwhile, oil analysts said that non-OPEC oil producing countries appear willing to curb their output to support OPEC efforts to stabilize the oil price but no firm action is expected when their experts meet in London this week.

"There is a willingness to make output adjustments, but there hasn't been enough time to nail everything down," said Jeremy Hudson, an analyst at Shearson Lehman Hutton.

The issue is to be discussed at the Feb. 21 non-OPEC meeting but any firm decision is likely to be left to oil ministers from the

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC states who could meet in March.

"I am not expecting anything concrete to emerge in the way of cuts (at this week's meeting)," said Mehdi Varzi, an oil analyst at brokerage Kleinwort Benson Securities.

At a meeting of both sides on Jan. 26, the non-OPEC experts said they backed OPEC's \$18 a barrel price target and agreed to recommend "necessary cooperative measures" to their governments.

Egypt and Oman said they would consider reducing output as part of an overall move to cut production by non-OPEC countries.

Press reports quoted a delegate to the Jan. 26 meeting as saying non-OPEC producers would

offer a 300,000 barrel-per-day cut in London this week.

But a spokesman at the Mexico's energy ministry said he had not heard any specific volume being mentioned and added that this week's meeting would only discuss the percentage shares of any output cuts that each country might adopt.

"The experts will discuss percentages rather than quantities and no firm decision is likely to be taken for the moment," he said.

Technical experts from non-OPEC producers Egypt, Mexico, Oman, Angola, China, Colombia and Malaysia are expected to attend the London meeting. Observers are expected from the Soviet Union, North Yemen, Norway, the U.S. oil producing states of Alaska and Texas and the Canadian province of

Alberta.

Indonesian minister affirms adherence to output target

In Jakarta, Indonesian Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasmita said Thursday that OPEC did not exceed its production target in January, output ranging around the 18 million barrel a day mark.

He told reporters the figure came from an OPEC meeting in Vienna.

"I have a report that OPEC's production is still on the safe level, that is around 18 million and for sure not as high as 19 million," Ginanjar said.

"So it's not true that OPEC has exceeded its target output," he said.

OPEC in November set a production ceiling of 18.5 million

barrels per day in the first half of 1989, aiming for a price of \$18 per barrel. Market rates are around that, but market rumours say some OPEC members are over producing.

Indonesia Thursday set the price of its March delivery of the key Minas crude oil to Japan, its major customer, at \$17.56 per barrel, unchanged from February.

Ginanjar stressed the importance of action on the part of oil-producing countries outside of OPEC to restrict output in the second quarter when demand usually weakens as industrialised nations use up winter stocks.

Ginanjar said he saw a positive attitude among non-OPEC countries towards stabilising the oil price. "If they cooperate, the prices will not too high in 1989," he said.

Japan to study new wealth recycling plan for Third World

TOKYO (R) — Japan will work on a plan to recycle some of its wealth to developing countries to help solve the Third World debt problem, Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said Thursday.

He told parliament a new plan should be studied now that more than 80 per cent of the current \$30 billion recycling programme had been either promised or given to developing nations.

"Japan should make a thorough study of the next fund-flow after the \$30 billion programme," he said.

The three-year earlier plan, brainchild of former prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, still has over a year to run.

Nakasone used his programme to try to fend off foreign charges

that cash-rich Japan was not using enough of its massive trade surplus to help out the Third World. Japan's stubbornly high trade surplus strengthens the case for another scheme now to defuse foreign criticism.

Finance ministry officials said they were just starting to work on a new recycling programme but that it was too soon to say what shape it would take.

Some bankers expect the government to try to come up with a new plan by the next economic summit meeting of major democracies, to be held in Paris on July 14.

One possibility would be another increase in the Export-Import Bank of Japan's target for

loans to developing nations.

Although some Export-Import Bank officials are against such targets because they believe they weaken their bargaining position with debtor nations, they admit that politicians are likely to try to force targets on them.

One senior government official said the \$30 billion plan had succeeded in swinging attitudes in the bureaucracy away from the penny-pinching approach of the past.

A new programme would help ensure that future recycling efforts do not get bogged down in the bureaucracy, he said.

News of the new recycling scheme is just the latest sign of increased efforts by Tokyo to

help ease the \$1.3 trillion Third World debt crisis.

It has already said that it is willing to modify the so-called Miyazawa scheme, after that plan received a lukewarm reception from the United States.

The scheme, named after former finance minister Kiichi Miyazawa, called for debtor countries to swap bonds for some of their commercial bank loans. The bonds would be backed by a trust fund administered by the International Monetary Fund.

Japan has also come under pressure to give its banks more tax breaks on their existing Third World debt to encourage them to lend more to the developing world.

Report compares climates of investment in 95 states

WASHINGTON (AP) — Peru, Liberia, Honduras, Egypt, Cameroon and Botswana have experienced the biggest deterioration in their "investment climates" among 42 Third World nations in the 1980s, according to a new report by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The report says the biggest investment climate improvements from 1979 to 1987 among less developed countries occurred in Bolivia, Guinea, Ghana, Costa Rica and Zaire.

Alan Woods, the agency's director, defined the changes in investment climates as how much a country adopted or abandoned pro-growth policies promoting competition, private ownership and individual opportunity.

In the countries with the best investment climates, growth averaged almost six per cent in 1987. Woods said at a meeting sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "That's compared to a negative one per cent growth rate in countries with the worst investment climate."

Discussing the report, he said

Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Spain had the best investment climates of 95 Third World countries, according to a survey that USAID commissioned from Frost and Sullivan Inc., a consultant that specialises in assessing political risks for businesses.

Burma was listed as having the worst investment climate, with Iraq, Surinam, North Yemen and Ethiopia only slightly above it.

Woods did not name the countries with negative growth rates, meaning those with a reduction in annual production and in per capita income.

The study, titled "Development and the National Interest: U.S. Economic Assistance into the 21st Century," is aimed at showing Third World countries the advantages of welcoming foreign investment, Woods said.

Among the indicators of a country's investment climate, he said, are the extent of bureaucratic controls, corruption, political stability, exchange controls, taxation and the ability of foreign investors to take their earnings home.

General Motors reports record profits for 1988

DETROIT (R) — General Motors Corp. (G.M.) has reported record net income of \$4.9 billion for 1988 breaking its previous earnings peak of \$4.5 billion set in 1984.

The largest U.S. car maker said the record profits stemmed from increased volume, improved performance in North America and overseas, and lower fixed manufacturing expenses.

G.M. Chairman Roger Smith said the earnings improvement also resulted from efforts to reduce costs and build better-quality products. Last month he had said G.M. would break its 1984 earnings record.

Car industry analysts had estimated the company earned \$4.55 billion to \$4.9 billion in 1988.

G.M.'s per-share income of \$14.34 was in the middle of analysts' expectations. The per-share figure compared with \$10.06 in 1987.

G.M. said the earnings of its North American operating group increased significantly in 1988 over nominal 1987 profits. It said

its overseas operations earned a record \$2.7 billion last year, up from \$1.9 billion in 1987.

Smith said the North American operations, despite their improved performance, were still below G.M.'s described level of profitability.

"We are committed to our primary goal in North America to profitably raise G.M.'s market share — and that will require continued product innovation, quality improvement, cost reductions and effective marketing programmes," he said.

In 1988 G.M.'s share of the U.S. car market declined to 36.1 per cent from 41.7 per cent in 1987.

For the year, G.M. said revenues rose to \$110.22 billion from \$101.78 billion in 1987. The 1988 net income included a gain of \$224.2 million from an accounting change.

G.M. said its fourth-quarter profits rose to \$1.39 billion from \$835.8 million a year earlier. Revenues rose to \$28.84 billion from \$26.37 billion.

Africans aim at common debt strategy

ADDIS ABABA (R) — African foreign ministers will try to thrash

out a common policy on the continent's \$230 billion foreign debt at

Turkish opposition vows to reverse privatisation

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's main opposition leader Erdal Inönü has said that if his party came to power it would renationalise state companies privatised by Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

"Privatisation is just the government's selling enterprises to foreigners to pay back foreign debts," Inönü told a meeting of the Social Democrat Populist Party in Ankara.

"When we take office we will buy back all privatised institutions," said Inönü, whose party narrowly leads Ozal's Motherland Party in opinion polls.

Turkey's privatisation programme has been plagued by delays and economic uncertainty. But Ozal's government, whose term ends in 1992, is still preparing more than 40 wholly or partly-owned state companies for sale.

Privatisation started last March with the sale of a minority share in the Teletas communications company. The only other completed sale is of a majority stake of the Asa soft drinks company to the U.S. Coca-Cola company in November.

The government last week took further steps to approve foreign bids for an air caterer, Ucak Servisi, and five cement factories.

Bankers say the prices are cheap but the state-owned companies are frequently a burden on the government budget and need new, independent management and foreign know-how.

"They are sucking our blood. Even if we give away all the state economic enterprises for free, that will put us in the black," one senior official told Reuters.

Paraguay reopens exchange houses

ASUNCION (R) — Paraguay's central bank Thursday reopened free market foreign exchange houses closed last month by ousted president Alfredo Stroessner, government sources have said. They said the exchange houses must operate with a minimum capital of 400 million guaranis (about \$400,000). Stroessner, ousted by General Andres Rodriguez in a coup Feb. 3, closed the exchange houses to stem a fall in the value of the guarani. The dollar, which traded at 1,150 guaranis before the exchange houses were closed, opened Thursday at 1,080, dealers said. Cambios Guarani, Asuncion's biggest exchange house, is owned by Rodriguez.

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Sunday, February 26:
8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Individual sessions in the Consular Section, American Embassy.

Monday, February 27:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.: Taxpayers' seminar at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

Tuesday, February 28:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Individual sessions in the Consular Section, American Embassy.

For further information please call 644371 ext. 233.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Syrian premier opens new oil field

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi has officially opened a new oil field increasing his country's production by 100,000 barrels a day (b/d). The new field brings Syria's oil output to about 350,000 b/d. Zu'bi said at the inauguration ceremony near the eastern city of Dayr Al Zawr that two more fields in the area of the new Omar field were being developed, which would add another 100,000 b/d to Syrian output. Hinting that there may be as yet undiscovered oilfields in Syria, he said in a copy of a speech obtained by Reuters that there were "other places of hope... on... the geological map." Syria, a member of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, began oil production in the late 1960s.

NTT expands computer memory

TOKYO (AP) — Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Co. (NTT) has said it has developed relatively compact machinery to produce a powerful light that could be used to make computer microchips with huge memory capacity. NTT, Japan's giant telecommunications company, said the development could lead to using beams of light to etch ultra-fine circuits for chips that would have 100 megabit memories. The most advanced chips now available commercially have one megabit of memory. Four-megabit and 16-megabit semiconductors have been demonstrated but are not yet in general production. NTT said it had achieved its research goal of extracting a type of light it calls SOR, for synchrotron orbital radiation, from a storage ring with a superconducting magnet to bend a stream of electrons that had been accelerated to near the speed of light. The storage ring measured 2.5 by eight metres, about one-fifth the size of the equipment it previously used. One megabit is 1,048,576 items of memory, sometimes equated to 62 typed pages.

Canadian banks raise prime rate

TORONTO (R) — Major Canadian banks boosted their prime lending rate to 12.75 per cent Thursday, the sixth increase since last spring, when the benchmark rate stood at 9.75 per cent. The action was led by the Bank of Montreal. The rise in rates is seen as part of an inflation-fighting strategy of Bank of Canada Governor John Crow. Canadian inflation is currently running at an annual rate of about 4.0 per cent. Other major banks, including the Bank of Nova Scotia and Toronto Dominion, followed Bank of Montreal's lead, and the rest of the industry was expected to go along with the increase. An increase in the prime rate normally paves the way for increases in mortgage and other consumer lending rates. One bank spokesman said an announcement on increases in other lending rates was expected soon. The prime rate is traditionally the rate a bank charges its best corporate customers.

Kuwait, USSR sign oil agreement

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, a key member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and the Soviet Union, the world's biggest oil producer, signed Thursday an agreement to pursue joint oil projects in the two countries. Soviet Oil Industry Minister Vasily Dinkov told reporters after the signing: "There has been an agreement to study possible joint ventures... we have defined the projects we can cooperate on in the future." He said specific projects had not yet been chosen and a delegation of Kuwaiti experts would visit the Soviet Union to study possibilities. Moscow would in turn furnish Kuwait with information on potential projects, Dinkov said. Cooperation could encompass geophysical exploration, oilfield development and joint companies in all areas of the Soviet oil industry, he said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, Feb. 16, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		343.6	347.1
Swiss franc				85.7	86.5
French franc				425.0	429.4
Japanese yen (for 100)				258.5	261.0
Dutch guilder				85.4	86.3
Swedish crown				39.8	40.2
Italian lira (for 100)				139.2	140.6
Belgian franc (for 10)					

U.S. dollar 538.0 542.0
Pound Sterling 948.0 958.6
Deutschemark 291.7 294.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

	1.7768/78	U.S. dollar
One Sterling	1.1885/95	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.8345/55	Deutschemarks
	2.0700/10	Dutch guilders
	1.5570/80	Swiss francs
	38.43/49	Belgian francs
	6.2450/2500	French francs
	1342/1343	Italian lire
	125.68/78	Japanese yen
	6.2780/2830	Swedish crowns
	6.6650/6700	Norwegian crowns
	7.1350/1400	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	379.60/380.00	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The national share market closed easier as stocks struggled to regain losses from Thursday's 28-point slide. The All Ordinaries Index fell 2.9 to 1,448.3.

TOKYO — Share prices ended a roller-coaster day at a record closing high as dealing by securities houses, a wealth of available funds and bullish forecasts for certain sectors triggered buying. The Nikkei Index rose 89.81 to a record close at 32,173.39.

HONG KONG — Stocks ended a roller-coaster day higher as buyers returned to the market in late morning and afternoon. The Hang Seng Index closed 25.11 points higher at 3,106.25.

SINGAPORE — Profit-taking and lack of follow-through buying caused share prices to ease. But the Straits Times Industrial Index managed a marginal 0.10 point gain to 1,129.93.

BOMBAY — Share prices closed higher after a sedate start in moderate trading for the new account but the market undertone was cautious. Tata Steel rose five rupees to 1,186.25.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed mixed after a cautious session. The impending release of U.S. trade data for December heightened the market's uncertainty and kept investors on the sidelines. The Dax Index fell 2.82 to 1,315.09.

ZURICH — Prices closed steady to lower on fairly low turnover. Trading was very quiet before release of U.S. December trade data. The All-Share Swiss index fell 1.8 to 977.

PARIS — Share prices continued their decline by midsession in fairly thin volume, with operators still awaiting U.S. December trade figures. The 50-share price indicator was 0.99 per cent down.

LONDON — Equities were well off their lows in late trading on the back of a small rise on Wall Street, which came after news of a U.S. December trade deficit in line with market forecasts. At 1540 GMT, the FTSE 100 was up 0.1 at 2033.9.

NEW YORK — Wall Street blue chips pushed higher although morning trading was generally slow. The Dow was ahead seven points at 2318 and gainers held an edge over declining issues.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Molby returns to Danish (soccer) squad

COPENHAGEN (R) — Midfielder Jan Molby, jailed for reckless driving last year, is back in the Danish soccer squad after an absence of five months. He has been named for a friendly international against Italy in Pisa Wednesday. Otherwise Denmark's trainer Sepp Piontek continues to re-build the team experimenting with new names. The line-up includes up-and-coming strikers such as Lars Elstrup, Brian Laudrup and Ulrik Moseby. Molby served six weeks in prison but has since regained his club place with English champions Liverpool.

Durocher in critical condition

PALM SPRINGS, California (AP) — Former baseball great Leo Durocher was listed in serious but stable condition at desert hospital early Friday, apparently after he was hurt in a traffic accident, authorities reported. "Yes, he is here," said Susan Pond, a nursing supervisor at the hospital, about 160 km east of Los Angeles. Pond declined to say exactly what injuries the former player, manager and coach had suffered. A police spokeswoman who declined to give her name said the accident occurred Wednesday morning in Palm Springs, but that further details were not immediately available.

Late Nigerian goal sinks S. Arabia

RIYADH (R) — Nigeria stole first honours in the world youth soccer championship Thursday by beating hosts Saudi Arabia 2-1 in the opening tie. A draw looked imminent until the 89th minute when the Saudi defence slipped and let Christopher Ohenhen drive home the winner. The unfancied Saudis had earlier shocked the three-times African champions when they went ahead in the 16th minute to the delight of a capacity 70,000 crowd in Riyadh's showpiece King Fahd international stadium.

Scandinavians strive to keep ski supremacy

LAHTI, Finland (AP) — The world Nordic ski championships start Friday in this botched of cross-country skiing and ski jumping with the traditional powers of Finland, Norway and Sweden trying to stay on top in a sport they invented.

The championship programme has been increased to 15 events, so a record 45 medals will be at stake.

Sweden, led by four-time Olympic champion Gunde Svan, has dominated cross-country skiing heavily this decade and is expected to do it again.

Svan, who leads the World Cup standings, recently swept all individual titles in the Swedish championships. But he's not talking about a sweep of all four here. He won't even try to accomplish what no skier has ever done before in the world or the Olympics, pulling out of Saturday's 30-kilometre classical style race because of the flu.

"Besides, everything must work perfectly in order to win everything," said Svan. "One little mistake and the chance is gone. My goal is to win one gold in these championships."

But most people believe Svan will do better than that. Already the second most successful cross-country skier of all time at 27, Svan has never been in better form.

The Soviet Union finished atop the cross-country ski medal table in the Calgary Olympics a year ago and should also do well. The Soviet women are especially strong and are favoured in Friday's opening event, the 10 km classical style race.

In ski jumping, one of the most spectacular of all winter sports, Matti Nykanen will try to repeat the 1988 Olympic heroics before his home fans. The Finn captured an unprecedented three Olympic gold medals last year, but will be hard pressed by Swedish sensation Jan Boklov.

Boklov, whose daring jumping style is revolutionising the sport, scored his fifth World Cup win of the season at Chamonix, France, last month.



The price of mediocrity: the British athletics board have cut money available to its athletes, partly on the tail of disappointing results in the Seoul Olympics. "You're only as good as your last race" said chairman Tony Ward.

U.K. athletes take pay cut

LONDON (AP) — Britain's top track athletes face a cut in pay from the nation's Amateur Athletic Board for the second consecutive year, partly as a result of a disappointing showing in the 1988 summer Olympics.

The board said Wednesday its budget for payments to athletes has been cut by more than 25 per cent to \$700,000 and that a ceiling has been placed on how much an individual athlete can receive for a race.

Top athletes will be able to earn a maximum of \$10,000 from a track meet, as opposed to about \$13,500 last year and much more in 1987 when payments peaked.

"In a sense the old adage that you're only as good as your last race is true," said board spokesman Tony Ward. "We didn't have a gold medalist last year and there isn't a bottomless pit of funds. There had to be a re-

evaluation of the package."

Officials expect payments to be cut against next year after the sport's five-year television contract with a British network ends.

The money will be paid to participants in track meets held this year in Britain, in addition to outside personal and promotional deals worked out by the athletes and the possibility of extra appearance cash offered by television.

In addition, the board is offering \$50,000 to any track and field performer who breaks a world record during a British meet.

"It still sounds like an excellent rate of pay for two or three minutes work," said Peter Elliott, Olympic silver medalist in the 1,500 metres in Seoul. "I can't see any room for complaint."

Johnson's doctor admits drug use, but not at Seoul

TORONTO (R) — Ben Johnson's personal physician said in an interview published Thursday that the disgraced Olympic sprinter took a banned steroid on one occasion four months before the Seoul Olympics last year.

The Toronto Star quoted Dr. Jamie Astaphan as saying in a telephone interview from the Caribbean island of St. Kitts that Johnson was depressed last May over a hamstring injury that threatened to end his rivalry with Carl Lewis for the 100 metres gold medal at the games.

"He bought stanozolol or somebody bought it for him in Toronto," Astaphan said, but immediately after taking it Johnson suffered "violent muscle spasms."

"He was immediately brought to me and I nursed him back to top condition," the physician told the newspaper.

Astaphan said Johnson was not on stanozolol when he beat Lewis in a world-record time of 9.79 seconds in Seoul for the 100 metres gold, a medal taken away

from him when he tested positive for stanozolol use by Olympics officials.

Asked how he could be sure, Astaphan replied: "I must admit that even though I am his personal physician, there's no way I can keep a constant check on him."

"But it would not make any sense for an athlete to go back on a drug which a few months previously could have ruined him for life."

Johnson has said he never knowingly took performance-enhancing drugs. Astaphan has denied ever prescribing such drugs for Johnson or other athletes on Canada's Olympic team.

The Johnson scandal prompted Canada to call an inquiry into drug use in amateur sport. Hearings in the probe are to resume in Toronto next Wednesday.

Robert Armstrong, counsel to the investigative commission, said it was "totally irresponsible" that Dr. Astaphan made such statements outside of the commission and not under oath where they are available to be tested by cross examination.

Armstrong said inquiry staff had been trying without success to gain Astaphan's cooperation.

Astaphan also said in the interview he had delivered an ultimatum to the inquiry: that he be the first witness when the inquiry reconvenes and that the government cover all his expenses, including loss of income which he said could total tens of thousands of dollars.

He said if his demands were not met in the next few days he would hold a news conference in St. Kitts and tell everything he knows.

Astaphan said by doing so he would render the Canadian inquiry meaningless.

Armstrong said no demands had been made to inquiry staff and the inquiry's schedule had not been decided.

Hungary's Grand Prix venture in trouble

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary's Formula One motor race, which annually brings the avowedly capitalist Grand Prix set to communist Eastern Europe, is set to make a big loss this year, the state news agency MTI said Thursday.

The Grand Prix has lost money every year since it was launched in 1986 in a blaze of publicity as the East bloc's first and so far only Formula One world championship race.

But this year's loss is expected to reach a record \$925,000.

According to MTI, the problems began with the Hungarian track, built in record time for the 1986 race and costing more than double its original \$3.7 million budget.

The government daily Magyar Hirlap also said the contract with the Formula One Constructors' Association (FOCA) was extremely unfavourable towards the Hungarians.

The paper said FOCA's fee this year amounted to \$1.1 million. But race organiser Tamas Moldovan said the races were "a most efficient promotion for Hungary."

Moldovan said the state, which has already taken over ownership of the troubled track from the consortium, should not give up the event under any circumstances and should pay the \$1.1 million.

McEnroe: 30, and something left to achieve

MILAN, Italy (AP) — U.S. tennis star John McEnroe said on his birthday that he has something left to achieve before ending a prominent career — winning one of the Grand Slam tournaments.

"Wimbledon, the U.S. and the Australian Open are my likely targets. Jimmy (Connors) won Wimbledon at 32. Thus, those things can happen. It's still possible," said McEnroe, who turned 30 Thursday.

McEnroe, the third-seed in the \$492,500 indoor tennis tournament of Milan, said he was happy.

"I like the position I have reached. I proved a lot but I still have something left. I can reach a new level and play better. I am conscious that I am not the best any longer. I have accepted the fact I cannot dominate the play. But I am among the top 10 in the world. I am going to play great although not winning as much as in 1984," said McEnroe.

He was the top ranking player in the world between 1981 to 1984. His career includes three Wimbledon titles and four wins in the U.S. Open.

He has never won the Australian and French Open tournaments, in which he has finished as semi-finalist and finalist.

McEnroe and his wife, U.S. actress Tatum O'Neal, have two babies.

He made a successful debut in the Milan tournament at Milan's Palatrussardi arena Wednesday night by downing West German Davis Cup player Carl-Uwe Steeh in straight sets, 6-3, 6-2.

In Thursday's second round, McEnroe faces unseeded Michiel Schepers of the Netherlands.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQJ ♠AKQJ ♠J5 ♠A73
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—With this much strength opposite a one-over-one response, you would have jumped to two no trump to describe a balanced hand too strong for a one no trump opening bid. Since partner made a two-over-one response, jump to three no trump to show the same type of hand.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKJ65 ♠AJ ♠J76 ♠742
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—With an opening bid facing an opening bid, you have the values for game. And you know your side has an eight-card fit on this sequence. Partner must have a six-card heart suit. Therefore, your support is more than adequate. Jump to four hearts.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠83 ♠KQ7 ♠AQ62 ♠AJ2
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Db1 Pass 2 ♠

What do you bid now?
A.—You have a pretty good hand, but there is no need to get carried away. Bear in mind that you have forced partner to bid, and he might have done so on a yarrowbough. The most you can do is invite game by raising to three hearts—if partner has a smattering of points, he will go on to game.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ ♠Q10 ♠Q9873 ♠J1082
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—Partner is showing a 5-4-2-2 distribution and some 16-18 points. Not only are you maximum for your first response, but your honors in partner's suits must be upgraded. Anything other than a bid of three no trump should be treated with contempt.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q962 ♠KJ8 ♠AKJ1085 ♠5
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—For his jump shift, partner can hardly have less than A-K and A-Q in his two suits. Therefore, it's simply a matter of whether partner has the ace of clubs as well. Bid four no trump to find out. If your partner habitually jump shifts with bad suits, you have our sympathy.)

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation —

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Activities may shift as an array of variable aspects sets the tone for the day. If variety is your spice of life, this is your day. Others will feel that too much has been crammed into one day.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) With mixed feelings, it is wise to hold yourself in check until you are in better spirits. Stick to goals that you have already selected.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You are in a playful mood but may have to entertain yourself. Ideas are sharp today but need a creative outlet. Talents drift aimlessly.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Affairs of the heart are at the top of the list. Make definite plans. The "where would you like me to take you" routine is not recommended.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Ignore those who post over others. Remember, you can't please everyone. Connect with those you love and admire.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Strengthen partnerships by letting love thrive. Your best resources are your own sunny disposition and humorous way.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Reorganize to make efficient use of

home space. Develop a vigorous social life. There is an openness and friendliness with personal contacts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) The morning could be nothing more than mass confusion. The afternoon events turn positive. Accept an invitation that promotes good will.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your ingenuity could design a better mousetrap today. Mental powers, intuition and inventive expression flow with ease.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you see life in retrospect you will live in the past. Look to the future, for today you can make wise choices toward a new beginning.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A friendly attitude is a good bargaining chip when negotiating with grouches. Stay clear of people who borrow and never pay back.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Beware if a romantic partner seeks to keep something a secret. You are surprised when someone is more stubborn than you are.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Flare-ups occur over financial disbursements. Siblings may be demanding. Questions raised today may get a clearer answer tomorrow.

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley A. Whitson

ACROSS

- Crozier
- Ah, mai
- Lin. dance
- Patmer
- UK
- Organic compound
- Divine aid
- Type of jar
- Pierce
- Vaal expense
- Governing
- Film hit (1987)
- Butting beetle
- Scobey —
- Lanka
- Sch. subj.
- Cloak
- Cordage fiber
- Film hit (1987)
- Office help
- Cease
- Sign of racism
- Corrida shout
- Call. fort
- Pugilistic outburst
- Film hit (1987)
- Want
- Period of note
- Yields
- Brothers of comedy
- Musical passage
- Suburb of Minneapolis
- Fixa
- Addict
- Sagan
- Dillard
- Nuisance
- Exchanges

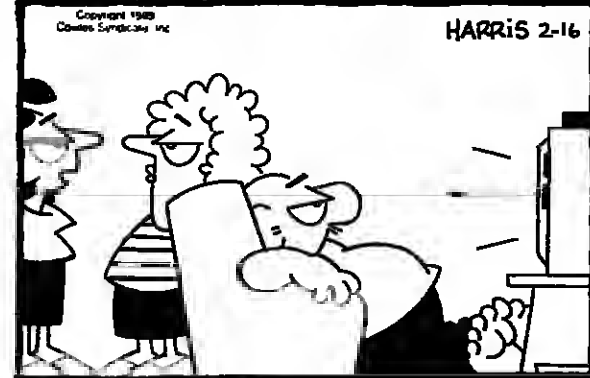
DOWN

- Snead and Peckinpah
- Share
- Boleyn
- Laurel
- Dreaded
- Donkey
- DeLuce's "Luck"
- Afr. gazelle
- Siphons
- Certain language expert
- Globe golf score
- Normandy dukes
- Woody or Steve
- Forum roba
- Owl sounds
- Clapton of rock
- Umpe' kin
- "may look on a king"
- Spock
- Baseball's Mel
- Evidence
- Dye
- Search
- Within pref.
- Coated e
- metal
- Drop
- Guem harbor
- Ocular item
- Condemns
- Robby of song
- Star over
- Change
- Came up
- Vanishes
- Peasenger
- Brief bio
- Gerald's wife
- Sensible
- Skill

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. CROZIER, 2. AH, MAI, 3. LIN. DANCE, 4. PATMER, 5. UK, 6. ORGANIC COMPOUND, 7. DIVINE AID, 8. TYPE OF JAR, 9. PIERCE, 10. VAAL EXPENSE, 11. GOVERNING, 12. BUTTING BEETLE, 13. SCOBEEY, 14. LANKA, 15. SCH. SUBJ., 16. CLOAK, 17. CORDAGE FIBER, 18. FILM HIT (1987), 19. OFFICE HELP, 20. CEASE, 21. SIGN OF RACISM, 22. CORRIDA SHOUT, 23. CALL. FORT, 24. PUGILISTIC OUTBURST, 25. FILM HIT (1987), 26. WANT, 27. PERIOD OF NOTE, 28. YIELDS, 29. BROTHERS OF COMEDY, 30. MUSICAL PASSAGE, 31. SUBURB OF MINNEAPOLIS, 32. FIXA, 33. ADDICT, 34. SAGAN, 35. DILLARD, 36. NUISANCE, 37. EXCHANGES, 38. AFR. GAZELLE, 39. SIPHONS, 40. CERTAIN LANGUAGE EXPERT, 41. GLOBE GOLF SCORE, 42. NORMANDY DUKES, 43. WOODY OR STEVE, 44. FORUM ROBA, 45. OWL SOUNDS, 46. CLAPTON OF ROCK, 47. UMPE' KIN, 48. "MAY LOOK ON A KING", 49. SPOCK, 50. BASEBALL'S MEL, 51. EVIDENCE, 52. DYE, 53. SEARCH, 54. WITHIN PREF., 55. COATED E, 56. METAL, 57. DROP, 58. GUEN HARBOUR, 59. OCULAR ITEM, 60. CONDEMNS, 61. ROBBY OF SONG, 62. STAR OVER, 63. CHANGE, 64. CAME UP, 65. VANISHES, 66. PASSENGER, 67. BRIEF BIO, 68. GERALD'S WIFE, 69. SENSIBLE, 70. SKILL.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Stanley stinks at anything athletic. Once he was thrown by a horse — on a carousel."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LONEV

DAMAR

GOBNEY

MESECH

CREDIT MIGHT BE THE MEANS TO LIVE LIKE THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: ONE'S

(Answers Monday)

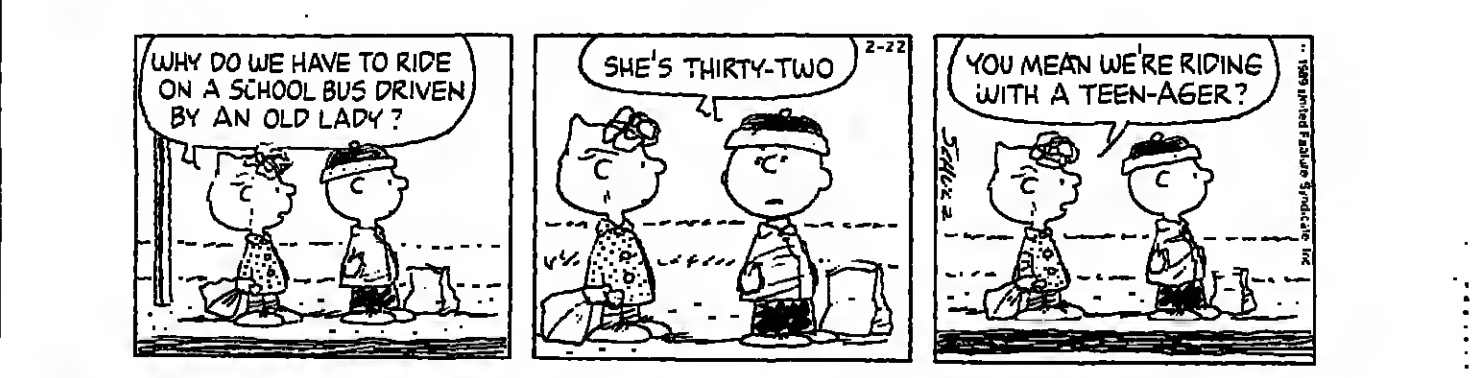
Yesterday's Jumbles: MANGY SUMAC DOUBLY GATHER
Answer: A man who is always asking for a loan is apt to be left this—ALONE

Door To Door

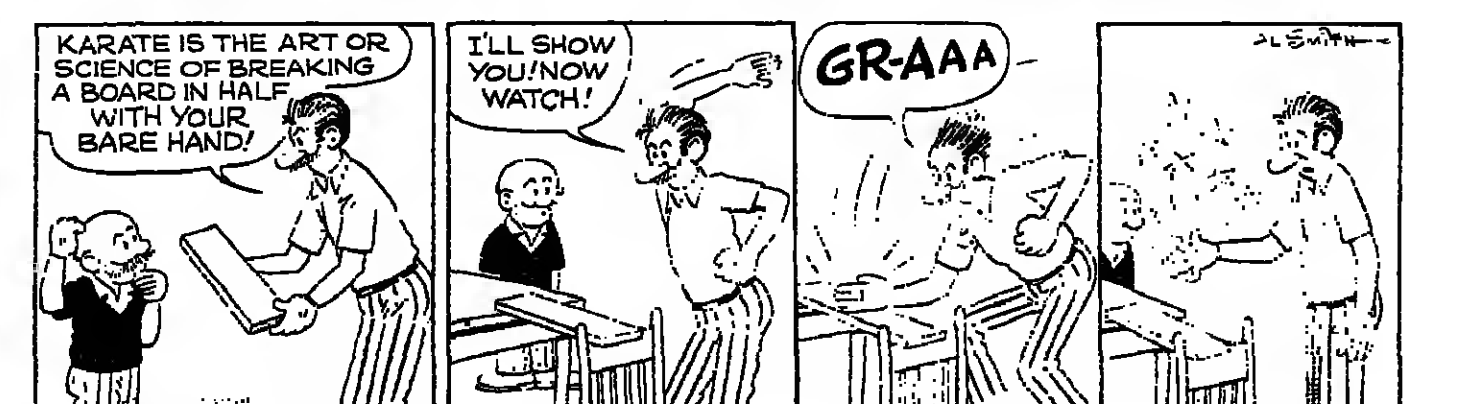
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Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Khamenei offers 'reprieve' to 'Satanic Verses' author

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's President Ali Khamenei offered British author Salman Rushdie a possible reprieve Friday after Iranian religious leaders had ordered his death.

Rushdie, with a \$4 million bounty on his head, remained in hiding in Britain, accused by many Muslims of blasphemy against their religion in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Khamenei told thousands of worshippers chanting "death to Britain" at Friday prayers in Tehran: "This wretched man has no choice but to die because he has confronted a billion Muslims."

"Of course, he may repent and say 'I made a blunder' and apologise to Muslims and the Imam (Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini). Then it is possible that the people may pardon him."

This was the first indication Iran might seek to defuse the furor which has seriously damaged Tehran's recent efforts to improve relations with the West.

There had been signs of unease in Tehran at the way the row had exploded into the world headlines and brought condemnation from Western states.

West Germany, Britain, France, the United States and the Netherlands all have expressed concern over the death threat.

Britain has called the threat "totally unacceptable" and froze plans to expand recently restored relations with Iran.

The Netherlands cancelled a

trip to Iran by Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek.

Khamenei called the British reaction astonishing. Iran's official news agency, IRNA, said:

"Britain is acting as if it was ignorant — or maybe it really is. It is defending a man who cannot be defended." IRNA quoted him as saying.

West Germany told Iran Friday it sharply condemned the threat. A Bonn statement said European Community foreign ministers would discuss the affair in Brussels Monday.

Khamenei in his sermon told Iranians to stay away from foreign embassies in Tehran.

"If you don't like British or American policies, the way (to express grievances) is not like some who go over embassy walls in an uncontrolled manner," IRNA quoted him as saying.

"I bear witness that such an action is absolutely, absolutely harmful to Islam and Muslims and detrimental to the Islamic republic."

In Bombay, where Rushdie was born into an Indian Muslim family in 1947, police declared a state of alert after a threat that "Iranian Guards" would bomb British Airways planes and kill prominent Indians until the writer emerged from hiding.

Elsewhere there were new demands for Rushdie's death. Rightwing Muslims in Pakistan called for his extradition and execution, while fundamentalists in Bangladesh demanded he be hanged.

Welcoming the order by Khomeini for the killing of Rushdie, Ghafour Ahmad, deputy chief of the rightwing Jamaati-Islami party told reporters Pakis-



Salman Rushdie

tan should influence the United States, Britain and other countries to ban the book.

Similar protests were held in Hyderabad, Sukkur, Faisalabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Bannu and Quetta, according to opposition leaders in the capital, Islamabad.

Warsaw ready to restore Solidarity

WARSAW (R) — Poland's communist rulers have agreed to restore the banned Solidarity trade union as a national organisation if it agrees to support economic and political reforms.

A joint government-Solidarity communiqué issued after talks on union pluralism Thursday said both sides agreed that the law should be amended to allow "trade unions freely to create their own organisational structure."

It said articles of a 1982 law which restricts unions to representing single branches of industry should be dropped.

The wording hinted that Solidarity might be allowed to reemerge as a mass national movement grouping different branches of industry and commerce in a structure similar to its form before its suppression under martial law in December 1981.

"It's exactly what we wanted to get," Solidarity spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz said. The union based much of its strength on its nationwide structure when it challenged communist rule during its 16-month legal existence in 1980-81.

But Onyszkiewicz said the government had not made fully clear what conditions the union would be asked to accept as part of a deal to pull Poland out of crisis.

The government has said it wants Solidarity to let its supporters take part in parliamentary elections this year and enter the communist-dominated parliament, but has not yet given the final details of its proposals.

The government, which invited Solidarity leader Lech Walesa to talks last August during the most serious pro-Solidarity strikes since 1981, wants to make a deal with the union that would contain labour unrest in a period of economic austerity.

The communiqué said Solidarity and other participants at the talks should "support planned political and economic reform and eliminate social tensions in factories."

Walesa said earlier that the talks on stabilising the country were going too slowly.

He repeated warnings that some people might try to provoke a wave of strikes in April or May.

The official PAP news agency said four strikes were in progress late Thursday, compared with 13 Wednesday. Strikers want pay rises to compensate for inflation.

COLUMN

Grandfather weds 12-year-old

RIYADH (R) — A 70-year-old Saudi Arabian has married a 12-year-old girl who is younger than some of his grandchildren, Okaz newspaper reported Wednesday. The daily said the couple wed Monday. The newspaper said the bride's grandfather objected to the marriage and refused to attend but her father approved.

Flag may flap — but quietly

LOS ANGELES (R) — A giant American flag may fly over Long Beach — but only if it does so quietly. The Long Beach City Council voted 7-2 Tuesday to allow Thomas Demski to fly the flag from his 41 metres flagpole as long as it does not violate the city's anti-noise laws. Neighbours had complained the flapping of the flag on windy nights kept them awake. "May the flag always fly high and free," Demski said.

Man who left dog gets car seized

UDINE, Italy (AP) — A man accused of abandoning his dog on the roadside had his car ordered seized Wednesday by a local court. Judge Giorgio Cabrin, acting on a complaint from an animal protection society, ruled the car should be seized because it was used to commit a crime. The man, Ermanno Minghetti, 49, denied the charge, saying he only drove his dog out of town because it needed exercise.

Tactics to stop noisy concertgoers

CHICAGO (AP) — Some concertgoers advocate strong-arm tactics to stop whispering, coughing and rustling candy wrappers during the Schumann or Rachmaninoff. When asked the best means of eliminating such noise pollution, Los Angeles concertgoers came up with a variety of suggestions that included throwing offenders off the balcony or cutting their ears off. Their St. Louis counterparts suggested decapitation or banishment to Siberia, or better yet, to a rock concert. Whispering, coughing and sniffling — in that order — were listed as the most distracting noises in a recent study commissioned by a cough medicine company of 2,500 concertgoers at the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the St. Louis and Atlanta symphonies. Some other less drastic suggestions of dealing with noisemakers included equipping each seat with a red bulb that would light up each time an individual made excessive noise or having ushers hand offenders a note stating that they are annoying those around them. Tinkling of heavy jewelry was ranked last on the list of 10 annoyances.

Johnson, Griffith expecting child

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Working Girl" star Melanie Griffith and "Miami Vice" star Don Johnson are expecting a child, but rumours that they would get married on Valentine's Day were not true. Johnson's publicist said: "Last week, Don called me and told me he had some wonderful news and he told me Melanie was pregnant," publicist Elliott Mintz said Tuesday from Miami. He said he did not know when the baby was due. Johnson, 39, and Griffith, 31, who were married previously and divorced, announced Dec. 26 their plans to remarry. However, they have not announced a date.

Oscar fever burns

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Melanie Griffith, Gene Hackman and Martin Landau each told of being awakened by friends calling to let them know they had been nominated for Academy Awards. Edward James Olmos learned of his Oscar nomination Wednesday over a cellular telephone. Dustin Hoffman heard his name called out on television as the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced the finalists in a news conference. Surprise and realisation of a dream come true were common reactions among Oscar contenders, many of whom received good news wake-up calls. "The phone started ringing. Actually, I was asleep. It's a wonderful way to wake up, really an incredible way to wake up," said Landau, nominated for his supporting role in "Tucker: The Man and His Dream." "It's just terrific. I am very pleased. It's just terrific. I am in Brooklyn, I dreamt of this. I think everyone does. Landau said from his Los Angeles home.

Kampuchea warring factions at standstill in Jakarta

JAKARTA (R) — Kampuchea's warring factions ended a second day of peace talks Friday saying no progress had been made.

Resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk called from exile for his fragile coalition to unite.

"So far we have not seen any sign of any concessions from the other side, it's the same stuff we have heard for the past 10 years," the chief negotiator for the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government, Hor Nam Hong, told reporters.

The Sihanouk side countered

that it was Phnom Penh and Vietnam that were stalling, saying their foes' conditions "can hardly hide Vietnam's real intention — to perpetuate its occupation of Cambodia (Kampuchea)."

However, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said some progress had been made in what were only preparatory talks ahead of the start Sunday of a meeting between heads of factions, watched over by foreign ministers from Southeast Asia.

Sihanouk, in a letter to the three factions of his United

Nations-recognised coalition, said they must unite to give their resistance credibility.

"We must put an end to all military incidents among our armed forces and show our enemies as well as the world community that we are fully capable to seize genuine peace for our motherland," he said in the letter from Peking, dated Feb. 14 and received in Bangkok Friday.

Sihanouk, in what one diplomat has likened to a childish sulk, is boycotting the talks, called the second Jakarta informal meeting, or JIM-II.

His bid for unity looked tenuous after the trial 17-year-old Son Sann announced he was taking over military control of his faction, replacing his top general.

Diplomats said the anti-communist Son Sann was seeking to boost his authority but the move indicated disarray in his movement.

"It is a little pathetic that in the middle of this large event that Son Sann shows himself as only concerned with the machinations of his own group," said one.

The Son Sann faction, esti-

mated to have fewer than 10,000 troops, is the weakest of the Khmer Rouge-dominated alliance.

The Khmer Rouge, with 30,000 soldiers, is believed by Western governments to have been responsible for the deaths of at least one million people during its four-year rule, which was ended when Vietnam invaded in 1978.

It formed an anti-Vietnamese alliance in 1982 with Sihanouk and Son Sann who have since accused it of attacking their troops on several occasions.

Tambo denies split with Mandela's wife

HARARE (R) — African National Congress (ANC) President Oliver Tambo said Thursday the ANC leadership was trying to solve the row over alleged brutal conduct by Winnie Mandela's bodyguards in Soweto.

Tambo denied in a television interview that there was any friction between him and the wife of jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

"Anti-apartheid groups in South Africa denounced Mrs. Mandela Thursday and said they wanted nothing more to do with her."

Mandela's bodyguards, known until recently as the Mandela United Football Club, are under investigation for the alleged abduction of four youths. The body of one of them was identified Monday and police have started murder inquiries.

"We just have to get that club disbanded, which now has happened," Tambo said. "The original idea was of course good, for her own protection, to give the children something to do, to keep

them off the streets, but it went wrong somewhere."

Tambo and Nelson Mandela recently ordered Winnie to disband the team, but community leaders in Soweto do not believe she obeyed their orders.

The attack on Mrs. Mandela could open the floodgates of criticism from all quarters of the black community which have held back out of respect for the Mandela name or for fear of retaliation.

"We are outraged by the reign of terror that the team has been associated with," said a statement read out by activist Murphy Morobe at a Johannesburg news conference.

"Had Stompie and his three colleagues not been abducted by Mrs. Mandela's football team, he would have been alive today," Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu told reporters in Cape Town: "It is a very sad day for us."

He added: "The affair was a great worry to us in that it dragged a great name through the mud and we could not afford it in our struggle for justice and peace."



Oliver Tambo

ged a great name through the mud and we could not afford it in our struggle for justice and peace."

Sources close to the family said Mrs. Mandela had been shunned by dozens of former associates in the anti-apartheid movement. "She is without any friends," one said.

Mrs. Mandela has not responded to the latest attack but in the past she has sought to fend off criticism by saying the team had been disbanded.

The real James Bond dies — He spied on birds, not villains

PHILADELPHIA (R) — The real James Bond has died peacefully of old age with never a fear of being blown up, poisoned or tortured by a horde of arch-villains who threaten Western civilisation.

The real James Bond, unlike his fictional namesake, never toted a gun and never drank a Martini that was shaken, not stirred. He spied on birds, not beautiful female enemy agents, for a living.

Bond, 89, whose death this week was revealed by his family Thursday, was one of the world's most famous ornithologists.

His name was borrowed by Ian Fleming, the creator of the James Bond series, because he was looking for a masculine Anglo-Saxon name for the hero of his tongue-in-cheek spy novels.

Fleming, a former journalist

and news executive, was a bird-watcher by avocation with a home in Jamaica. By chance he stumbled on a book there about the birds of the Caribbean written by Bond, who was the world expert on birds of that region.

As Fleming explained in a letter to Bond's wife Mary: "This brief, unromantic, Anglo-Saxon and yet very masculine name was just what I needed."

He apologised for any inconvenience his borrowing might have caused the distinguished scholar and told Mrs. Bond:

"In return, I can offer you unlimited use of the name Ian Fleming for any purposes you might think fit."

"Perhaps one day your husband will discover a particularly horrible species of bird which he would like to christen in an insulting fashion by calling it Ian

Fleming."

As far as is known, the real James Bond bore no grudge and no bird was given the name Ian Fleming.

A native of Philadelphia, Bond earned an undergraduate degree at Cambridge University and made his first scientific expedition in 1925.

He later visited scores of Caribbean islands and identified almost 300 bird species there. He wrote four books about the birds of the region.

Bond was curator of ornithology at the Academy of natural sciences here and was known for having disproved the view that the birds of the Caribbean originated in South America.

In honour of his work, scientists named the bird boundary between North and South America "Bond's Line."

Vlok orders first detainee release

CAPE TOWN (R) — Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok signed orders Friday for the release of seven detainees in the first action on a deal with lawyers and churchmen to end a prison hunger strike.

Lawyers said the detainees, who ended a fast to the death Thursday, could be freed as early as Friday afternoon. About 20 who needed hospital treatment could take weeks to recover.

A ministry spokesman said Vlok signed the orders before a morning session of parliament and could authorise further releases later Friday or over the weekend.

Vlok undertook in meetings with Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other church leaders Thursday to release "a substantial number" of the country's estimated 1,000 political detainees within two weeks.

Tutu said the clergyman agreed in turn to urge the suspension of a hunger strike by about 300 people detained without charge under emergency rules for up to 32 months.

Neither side has said how many detainees would be freed, but Tutu warned that 100 would not be enough.

The deal averted a crisis for the government, which has sought since the beginning of the current parliamentary year to promote an image of moderation and political reform.

The prison protest drew international attention and won support from black and white South Africans including prominent world reformer churches leader Allan Boesak, who started a death fast in support of the detainees Monday.

Detainees, most of them young black anti-apartheid activists, ended their hunger strikes in Johannesburg and Witbank but lawyers and government officials could not say Friday whether about 120 strikers in Port Elizabeth had also halted their action.

The ministry's spokesman said Vlok met lawyers for the Port Elizabeth hunger strikers until late Thursday night.

Boesak said Thursday he had suspended his fast but would resume if the government reneged on the agreement.

The hunger strike was launched in Johannesburg Jan. 23 to demand that detainees should immediately be charged or released. It spread later to Port Elizabeth and Witbank.

A spokeswoman for the lawyers representing detainees said 21 people remained in hospital Friday as a result of the hunger strike.

"Some of them are very weak, in a very bad state of health. They are slowly beginning to take food under the advice of doctors, but it could be weeks before they can leave hospital," she said.

"It is too early to tell whether they will recover fully — without brain damage or loss of sight — but they are being looked after by very sympathetic doctors and their care is excellent," she said.

He said that while there may be exceptions such as the need to incinerate substances at very high temperatures, when a nation could justify shipping toxic wastes to another with facilities for proper disposal, in general the World Bank opposed any trade in toxic waste.

He hoped effective measures to bring the trade under control could be covered in an international convention now being negotiated through the United Nations Environment Programme.

Environmental problems all over the world are of critical importance to future development, he said.

World's most complicated watch unveiled in Geneva

GENEVA (AP) — One of its 184 tiny wheels completes a single revolution in five years. Another wheel takes a century to turn once and after 400 years a lever is moved to prevent the watch's calendar from skipping the leap year date.

It is the first timepiece to calculate the date of Easter. Almost in passing, the makers mention that it also features a celestial chart showing the Milky Way and 2,800 northern hemisphere stars.

Patek Philippe, the prestigious Geneva company which unveiled the pocket watch this week on its 150th anniversary, is not likely to be contested in its claim that the "Calibre 89" is the world's most complicated watch.

After a team of watchmakers worked more than five years to design the watch, and another four years to make and assemble its 1,728 parts, the Calibre 89 finally was unveiled Feb. 8 and then sent on a world tour.

"At some points, we were

greatly worried that we would not succeed," admits Jean-Pierre Musy, the head of the firm's complicated pieces department.

The 18-karat gold case has a diameter of 88 millimetres and weighs as imposing 1.1 kilograms. It has two dials and 24 hands. Packed among its parts are 68 springs, 126 jewels, and 332 screws.

Calibre 89 has 33 functions, 19 more than the firm's "Patek" watch of 1927, which Patek Philippe bought back last year with a two-million-swiss-franc (\$1.3 million) price tag.

Calibre's features include a daily display of the sunrise and sunset, carillon chimes ringing the hour and half-hour, and "power reserve" indicators showing when rewinding is needed. The mainspring can run 30 hours.

But the makers' pride is the watch's "perpetual secular calendar."

It takes into account that a leap

year is skipped at the turn of most centuries by the Gregorian calendar, introduced in 1582. Only the century years that are exactly divisible by 400, like 2000 and 2400, have a Feb. 29.

To keep it "up to date," the complicated mechanism makes one wheel turn once every five years, triggering a 20-tooth "century wheel" to move one notch.

A peg gives that wheel an extra push every 100 years, thus disengaging the calendar mechanism on three out of four century years to skip the leap year. A lever reengages the mechanism after 400 years.

The date of Easter, by Christian tradition, a movable feast, is shown on the watch at midnight of the preceding Dec. 31. Calculating the date for more than 30 years would require additional mechanisms that would not fit into the watch. So a special cog allowing the watch to display it must be replaced every 30 years.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Mozambique appeals for aid

MAPUTO (R) — Mozambique, ravaged by war and rural economic collapse, has issued a worldwide appeal for \$382 million to feed the third of its population which depends on foreign emergency relief. Cooperation Minister Jacinto Veloso told foreign aid agency officials Wednesday that he estimated 4.6 million people need aid, up from 3.3 million a year ago. Of these 1.7 million have fled their homes and are displaced and 2.9 million people were unable to feed themselves. The totals, prepared with the help of United Nations experts, do not include a further one million Mozambicans who have fled to neighbouring countries such as Malawi. Speaking to a Socialist International Conference in Harare Wednesday, President Joaquim Chissano said Mozambique was suffering a form of genocide at the hands of the right-wing rebel Mozambique National Resistance (MNR).

2 firms cleared in Marcos inquiry

MANILA (R) — A former Philippine cabinet minister affirmed Friday that five Japanese companies bribed ousted President Ferdinand Marcos to win road-building contracts but absolved two companies he had earlier named. Ex-public Works and Highways Secretary Baltazar Aquino told an anti-graft court that the Marubeni Corporation and C. Itoh and company were not involved in the alleged payoffs. The companies were among seven identified in an affidavit executed by Aquino in 1987 and submitted to the court in connection with a deposition hearing ahead of the filing of criminal charges against Marcos. In Tokyo, an official of the Ministry of Trade and Industry said it had no evidence that Japanese companies paid kickbacks to Marcos. "I had not collected anything from Marubeni and C. Itoh. They never supplied us with equipment. They had no contract with the highways (department)," the ailing Aquino, who is not related to President Corason Aquino, said when asked by a prosecutor to affirm his affidavit.

Rallies against Hirohito funeral planned

TOKYO (R) — Japanese groups opposed to the state funeral of Emperor Hirohito announced Friday they planned to organise nearly 100 rallies across the country to coincide with the ceremony. Leaders of an alliance of 114 groups of Christians, women, students, workers and other citizens told reporters they opposed the Feb. 24 funeral because of Hirohito's responsibility for World War II. "To participate in the state funeral of Hirohito is the same thing as to participate in the funeral of Hitler or Mussolini," a statement said.

Kinshasa faces nuclear threat

KINSHASA (R) — The next heavy rainfall in the Zairean capital Kinshasa could topple a nuclear research centre and trigger a catastrophe, national radio said Thursday. The radio said there could be a Chernobyl-like disaster if the city's regional Centre for Nuclear Studies was brought down by land shifts. However, a spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna said an accident on that scale would be impossible. The 1986 explosion and fire at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Soviet Union was the world's worst nuclear accident.

Discovery in AIDS research reported

NEW YORK (R) — Scientists have made a discovery that could accelerate the search for a drug to combat the AIDS virus, the pharmaceutical group Merck and Company reported Thursday. Merck scientists have identified the three-dimensional structure of an enzyme in the virus, the first time the structure of any enzyme or protein of the AIDS virus has been mapped. Merck said in a report published in the British scientific journal Nature. The discovery gives the company a target in its development of a drug therapy for the disease, Merck said. But it also said non anti-AIDS drug had been discovered and that it often takes a long time between basic research discoveries and breakthroughs in drug development.

Hudson's lover gets \$14.5 million

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rock Hudson was guilty of "outrageous conduct" in concealing his AIDS diagnosis from his homosexual lover, a jury ruled Wednesday in awarding him \$14.5 million from the late actor's estate. Marc Christian, 35, won \$3.5 million more than he had sought in the case, regarded as a precedent-setting action and watched closely by lawyers. No similar case has had a like result when the plaintiff has not developed AIDS. Hudson, the handsome Hollywood leading man who kept his homosexuality a closely guarded secret, died Oct. 5, 1985, at age 58, a few months after his battle with AIDS became public knowledge. Christian, who smiled when the verdict was read, has consistently tested negative for the AIDS virus, but claimed he was entitled to compensation for the emotional distress he suffered in fear that he would develop the disease.

France building blast claims 15

TOULON, France (R) — At least 15 people were killed and 36 injured when a 200-year-old building in the centre of Toulon collapsed after an explosion Wednesday, police said. Sniffer dogs were still at work more than 24 hours after the blast as rescue-workers tried to establish that no one was left under the rubble.